

Clash may be avoided at summit

President Reagan will face the most critical audience of his presidency when he addresses the North-South economic summit in Cancun, Mexico, this week. There have been forecasts of a United States-Third World confrontation over aid and other issues but American and Third World representatives believe this can be avoided. In Florence, Mr. Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, gave warning of a clash between Europe and the United States over tackling world hunger. Pages 10 and 14

Ambition 'led to murder of wife'

A surgeon and his mistress murdered his wife because she stood in the way of his ambitions, it was alleged at Middlesbrough Crown Court. They were said to have given her a dangerous drug over several months to cause a fatal illness. Page 4

Williams chosen to fight Crosby

Mrs Shirley Williams was adopted last night as the Social Democratic Party candidate with Liberal backing for the Conservative-held seat of Crosby. She told her adoption meeting that the despair and desperation of the Conservative Party was now self-evident. Croydon contest, page 2

£17.1m profit rise for M & S

Marks and Spencer reports a pre-tax profit increase of £17.1m but a top retail executive gave a warning that a general upturn in retail sales is unlikely before the middle of next year as the consumer recession follows that experienced by the manufacturers. Page 19

Three win Nobel physics prize

Two Americans and a Swede won the 1981 Nobel Prize in physics for refining methods of studying atoms with spectroscopes. Another American shared the chemistry award with a Japanese professor. The awards underlined a continued American dominance in the Nobel science categories. Page 12

Jobless better off in Europe

Unemployed Britons are considerably poorer than their counterparts in most of Europe, new figures show. The value of unemployment benefit compared to wages has fallen since 1975 and is now at its lowest since 1948, when national insurance was introduced. Page 4

Judge summons newspaper

A representative from the Sunday Express was ordered by the judge to appear before the court in the Downs syndrome baby murder trial today to explain an article by Sir John Lunn, the editor, who was sued by the parents of the child. Dr Leonard Arthur. Page 3

Trethowan £50 licence hopes

Nothing would give Sir Ian Trethowan more satisfaction than the announcement by the Government next month of a £50 licence fee. Starting his final year today as Director-General of the BBC, Sir Ian talks of his struggles and hopes. Page 16

Windscale leak inquiry set up

An urgent examination of the way nuclear incidents are reported, was announced by the Energy Department after a leak of radioactive material from Windscale, Mr. John Moore, Under-Secretary of State, said the leak of iodine 131 was not a hazard. Parliamentary report, page 6

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State share of North Sea oilfields up for auction

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

The Government is to auction off large tracts of state-controlled oil resources in the North Sea and break the British Gas Corporation's supply monopoly on sales to industry.

This sale of a majority stake in the British National Oil Corporation's production operations and the proposed bringing of offshore oil activities of British Gas into the private sector are likely to yield an estimated £1,500m, and possibly more, for the Exchequer.

Details of the Government's disposal plans were outlined to MPs yesterday by Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, who called it the biggest programme of privatisation ever to come before Parliament. The announcement was greeted by howls of dismay from the opposition and was immediately attacked by trade union leaders.

Unperturbed, Mr Lawson told a press conference: "On oil, the measures amount to nothing less than the privatisation of the North Sea. It is private enterprise which made the North Sea the outstanding success that it is, and it is the private sector which is the key to its continued success."

Mr Lawson's proposal reflects the Government's new determination to press ahead with measures to roll back the frontiers of state intervention in industry.

The move coincides with the announcement of the sale of the National Freight Corporation to a consortium of managers and employees.

The state-owned warehouse, and distribution conglomerate with 25,000 employees and 15,000 lorries will be sold in the new year for £53.5m. Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, told Parliament. But

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Cabinet may be forced to cut spending further

By Frances Williams

The Cabinet meeting today to discuss public spending plans for next year could cut short the brief and unhappy life of the Government's medium-term financial plan. The plan, which was unveiled in March, was based on the assumption that public spending would be cut by 1.5 per cent in 1982-83, and by a further 1.5 per cent in 1983-84. But the Government's new policy for bringing down inflation and cutting taxes.

Failure to curb a projected £6,500m to £7,000m overshoot over the £10,000m of public spending originally planned for 1982-83 will leave the strategy dangerously off course.

The public expenditure White Paper published in March alongside the Budget gave spending totals in constant 1980 survey prices. It had spending in 1982-83 falling 1.5 per cent in volume terms to £78,000m from £79,000m in 1981-82 (equivalent to £104,000m in cash terms).

But no decisions had then been taken on whether the cuts were to fall. This was left to the autumn public spending review. Now, however, ministers are faced with the prospect of making a 6 per cent cut in programmes to stick to the original plans.

As much as half the overshoot represents departments putting in bids for programmes not sanctioned by Cabinet.

Britain explains absence from Dayan funeral

By David Spanier

No British Minister attended the funeral of Moshe Dayan in Israel on Sunday because of practical difficulties, the Foreign Office said yesterday. Mr Patrick Moberly, the Ambassador, who was on leave in Sinai, was out of contact, so the Government was represented by Mr Michael Pike, the Consul-General.

No disrespect was intended to the memory of Mr Dayan, the Foreign Office said. Mr Moberly returned to the Embassy in Tel Aviv today.

Last night Mr Pike said Mr Moberly could not be located in Sinai and knew nothing about the funeral arrangements. He was in a remote area and could not hear the radio. The first time Mr Pike spoke to him was on Sunday, after the funeral. Leading article, page 15

Walesa pleased by change of leadership

By David Spanier

Paris, Oct. 19.—Mr Lech Walesa, leader of Solidarity, the Polish independent trade union organisation, today welcomed the change of leadership in Poland, saying Solidarity considered the situation was better than before. He told a press conference here: "The changes, in the opinion of Solidarity, will not produce unfavourable developments for our movement."

Solidarity had nothing against Mr Stanislaw Kania, the former Polish Communist Party leader who was replaced yesterday by General Wojciech Jaruzelski.

Asked for his reaction to the Polish Communist Party's call for a ban on strikes to be issued by the Sejm (parliament), Mr Walesa said: "We can search for other forms of protest. We can protest in different ways. Solidarity hopeful, page 8



Three tugs stranded in St Bride's Bay, Dyfed yesterday after being blown on to rocks.

Papandreou assures Washington

From Mario Modiano, Athens, Oct. 19

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Socialist leader who has won a landslide victory on a largely anti-American election platform, assured President Reagan today that his Government would give priority to closer links between the Greek and American peoples.

The emphasis was on peoples rather than countries which was the term used by Mr Reagan in his letter of congratulations to Mr Papandreou, but the exchange of messages was significant in itself.

Mr Papandreou wished to reassure the United States of the importance of the Greek people's attachment to the links with Greece which had been strengthened by dedication to democracy and alliance in the Western Community.

Mr Papandreou said: "We consider it to be one of our primary duties to strengthen these bonds in the interest of democracy, progress and peace."

Probably more significant is the fact the message was conveyed by Mr Montsejias Serrano, the newly-appointed United States Ambassador to Greece, an old personal and family friend of Mr Papandreou.

The last gesture of the election gave the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) an impressive 12-point lead over the centre-right New Democracy. There were slight gains also for the pro-European Communist Party (KKE).

With fewer than 700 polling stations unaccounted for, some 5.4 million votes were broken down as follows: Pasek 2,600,000 (48 per cent); 174 seats (+81); New Democracy 1,950,000 (36 per cent); 113 seats (-59); KKE 590,000 (11 per cent); 13 seats (+2); others 260,000 (5 per cent) 0 seats (-24).

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Leading article, page 15

Miners delay pay talks until BL settles claim

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders formally rejected a 7 per cent wage rise offer yesterday but delayed resumption of negotiations to avoid being caught in the way confrontation between the Government and BL car workers.

Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, complained: "Why should we be in the forefront? Why should it be seen so urgent that we are leading?"

Talks between the miners and the National Coal Board will now resume on November 11, on the tacit understanding that the BL wages dispute could be over by then.

Mr Gormley admitted that the state company's pay conflict was "one of the reasons we do not need to hurry", although he predicted that the final settlement would cost more than the £7m currently on offer.

The coal board yesterday spelled out in detail what its unchanged offer would mean for the men. The minimum rate on the surface would rise by £4.25 to £8.10 a week. The top face workers' basic wage would go up by £5 to £17.95. This would cost £58m in a full year.

In addition, incentive bonus payments for achieving jointly-agreed output targets would rise by £2 a week to £31, making the total increase worth £65m. The other £6m has been set aside for improvements in fringe benefits. The miners were a shorter working week, longer holidays, a long-service bonus and salary status for pitmen.

Mr James Cowan, coal-board member for industrial relations, said: "Our offer reflects the situation we are in. The country is in recession. Demand is going down, though we are exporting more."

"We have looked at revenue, costs and the expansion programme and we think that the £7m figure best matches up to the situation we are in. Politics do not enter into it at all."

NUM left-wingers were unusually recalcitrant yesterday, as the official start for the marathon election for a new president gets closer. But Mr Ray Chadburn, president of the Nottinghamshire miners and a moderate contender for job, insisted: "This particular offer could precipitate a strike. It is totally insulting."

His remark signalled a new stage in the exchange of rhetoric that is bound to build up over the next two months as December 2, polling day, approaches.

Mr Arthur Scargill, leader of the Yorkshire miners, and left contender for the presidency, accused the coal board of revising its original pay offer and so giving less on basic rates and to surface workers.

This question of industrial action must be left to a national delegate conference to which the union was committed, Mr Scargill said.

He added that the coal board were acting as agents of the Government in imposing a wage restraint policy at a time when the miners had increased output by more than 6 per cent and allowed manpower savings of more than £30m a year. Negotiations had broken down over the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435.

Left-wingers have set their sights on the presidency, and their chances of success received a substantial boost yesterday from the Durham miners.

Mr Tom Callan, president of the Durham pitmen, said his usually moderate colleague had voted to nominate Mr Scargill. This is the first right-wing move to back his candidature and it marked a breakthrough in his campaign.

Physical evidence of the American commitment to Egypt will increase further if Congress approves a suggestion made by Sadat before his death that the remote Red Sea base of Ras Banas should become a facility for United States forces at a cost of about \$500m.

The extent of American influence on Egyptian life is magnified by the way in which the huge aid programme influences planning decisions made inside key ministries, including electricity, health, irrigation, communications, agriculture and industry.

The spread of American influence has worked as a catalyst for the recent upsurge in support for Islamic fundamentalism. Even inside the large American diplomatic community, there are now voices suggesting privately that further extensions to the American commitment should be handled with more subtlety than in the past.

Muslim threat, page 8

Wagner is silenced by Israeli protests

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Oct. 19

Richard Wagner's future in Israeli concert halls remained doubtful today as the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's attempt to ease the banned German composer's music into its repertoire foundered.

Mr Zubin Mehta, the conductor, left the podium angrily last night after leading the ensemble through only two bars of the prelude to *Tristan and Isolde* against a cacophony of shrieking protests from concertgoers objecting to the music which the Nazis had used for their self-glorification.

"I will not subject my musicians any more to this kind of circus," the conductor vowed today. However, he added that the orchestra was not giving up. "The music of this great musical genius has got to be played once and for all of which they say the finest music loving people in the world," he said. "The timing will have to be very carefully considered."

Mr Mehta played the Wagner music last night as an encore although the orchestra management had been warned by police that hoodlums elements with smoke bombs and knives had been plotting disturbances. He said today he had responded to a request by the audience.

Normally, he said, he was called for two curtain calls after a concert but last night the audience refused to go home. He interpreted their assiduous applause as a request for the Wagnerian encore that had been played last week and caused a near riot.

In contrast to last night, the orchestra last week played the entire prelude and love death from the Wagnerian opera despite fist fights and a riotous screaming in the auditorium. "The first night we had to go on," he said. "We had to prove we wanted to play the music."

He said the ovations last night and last week showed the Israeli public overwhelmingly wanted to hear Wagner.

He said the depth of feelings the issue provoked had not been under-estimated but only the noise level. He claimed there had not been many protesters and if supporters had not tried to quash them the disturbances would have subsided.

Mr Mehta, the orchestra's music director, said it had been decided not to schedule Wagner's music in subscription concerts because it would be forcing people to hear the music. A special concert had been planned but that now appeared impossible. "We were told by the police that the opposition will buy up half the house and will not let the concert take place."

He suggested an educational programme since much of the opposition to Wagner was hypocritical and misinformed. There were young Israelis who believed Wagner had been Hitler's personal friend, he said. He sympathized completely with critics who grew up during the Third Reich in Central Europe.

Meanwhile, Mr Hammer, the Minister of Education, called for respect for the feelings of those who had experienced the Holocaust and to refrain from playing Wagner's works.

Agreement nearer on Namibia

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Oct. 19

A three-stage independence plan for Namibia has been agreed between South Africa and the Western contact group, it was indicated in Windhoek today.

Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, Mr R. F. Botha, Foreign Minister, and General Magnus Malan, Defence Minister, also appear to have indicated to leaders of the internal parties in the territory that it is the final option.

The trio held talks in Windhoek today with internal political leaders and it was apparent tonight there had been a heated exchange of views. But the fact that the Prime Minister flew to Windhoek yesterday signifies the importance the South African Government attaches to discussions which could be the last before a 15-member mission representing the Western contact group on Namibia arrives later this month.

The Western mission results from talks in Zurich in September between a South African delegation and a team led by Dr Chester Crocker, United States assistant Secretary of State for Africa, on breaking the deadlock over the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435.

Washington: Dr Crocker will tomorrow begin a visit to nearly a dozen African countries to help in support for the independence plan (AP reports).

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MONDAY OCTOBER 20, 1941

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Duffy faces left demand for new AUEW poll

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers executive will today resist demands that Mr Terence Duffy stands in a fresh election for the presidency in the wake of an internal appeals court decision that a rule was broken during last year's contest.

A bitter constitutional dispute between the union's right and left wings is certain after a decision by the lay final appeals court of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) that material in the September issue of the AUEW's journal broke the rule covering elections.

Left-wingers are waiting to see what the right-controlled executive decides in the wake of the findings at its weekly meeting today, but may consider legal action if it votes to take no further action.

The final appeals court decided last week at its annual closed session, in Eastbourne, that the journal's editorial was a breach of a union rule prohibiting the distribution by candidates or union members of material other than election addresses during elections. It provides that members who do distribute such material may be disqualified or dealt with respectively by the executive council.

The appeals court upheld complaints from three left-wing districts, Hatfield and Welwyn, Burnley and Sheffield charging that an editorial and centre page article in the journal, which is edited by Sir John Boyd, the union's general secretary, broke the rule by containing specific praise of the leadership of Mr Duffy.

The centre page spread, which, like the editorial written by Sir John, appeared shortly before the ballot for the presidency, opened, contained a phrase urging members to "sup-

port Terry Duffy and the executive council" against unemployment.

Sir John said last night: "It is absolute nonsense; nothing in the articles influenced Terry Duffy's great victory over seven other candidates. It is warping and a distortion to pretend that a campaign over unemployment, which began in the middle of last year, could possibly influence the election. It is a distortion of the truth."

Mr Robert Wright, assistant general secretary of the union and the man whom Mr Duffy best last year to be re-elected in an unprecedented first ballot landslide said yesterday: "As far as I am concerned there should be a new ballot with all the candidates. There should be no use of the journal any other material which favours Mr Duffy or anyone else."

Left-wingers last night were citing as evidence that the executive should act on the left-dominated appeal court's findings the union's rule 20 clause five which says that it shall be incumbent upon the executive council to give immediate effect to the decisions of the appeal court.

The Burnley complaint is understood to have specifically called for Sir John, as the union's returning officer, to declare Mr Duffy disqualified from the scale of Mr Duffy's victory last year went against the trend of some other elections where the left fared better, added that he did not normally favour rushing off to the courts.

In an initial reaction, Mr Duffy said the appeals court decision did not surprise him since it was "communist slanders". He added: "The only complaint I have heard of is that the Communist Party in the union were his so hard they are still dancing."

New pledge on Civil Service pay

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Government is to take the unusual step of making a statement in Parliament tomorrow on Civil Service pay in an attempt to boost flagging morale among civil servants after the five-month campaign of selective strikes earlier this year.

Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, will make a detailed statement in view of the Government's decision that a 4 per cent broad limit would be set for pay increases this year in the public services.

The Government at the end of the strikes promised that negotiations this winter would be conducted without pre-determined cash limits.

Mr Hayhoe will emphasise that the 4 per cent figure is not a set limit but the overall increase which the Government would like to see in its pay bill. He will be replying to a question from Mr Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Stroud, who said:

Senior Whitehall officials recognise that the September announcement has led to suspicion among civil servants, and particularly their union leaders, that the 4 per cent will apply to them despite the Government's promise.

After the strikes morales in the Civil Service slumped to an all-time low and Whitehall is keen to offer reassurance as a means of persuading its 530,000 white collar staff that it is not hostile to them.

Today the unions will discuss their claim for next year at a meeting of the major policy committee of the Council of Civil Service Unions.

Police given guidelines on CS gas

By Tony Samways

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, said yesterday that guidelines for the use of CS gas and plastic bullets had been issued to the police.

In a Commons written reply to a question by Mr John Birt, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Whitelaw said the guidelines took particular account of the lessons to be learnt from the use of CS gas in Yemen.

Earlier this month a Home Office working group recommended that police in Britain should be free to use both devices, despite their dangers, but only as a last resort.

Mr Whitelaw said the guidelines were based on the report by Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, on his inquiry into the use of CS during the riots. The Home Secretary said he was in no doubt that the decision to use CS as a last resort was necessary and justified.

Similarly, CS or baton rounds in future were to be used "only as a last resort where conventional methods of policing have been tried and failed."

Mr Whitelaw said it had also been agreed that the controversial 12-bore Ferret cartridges, which caused all the known civilian injuries in the Liverpool riots last July, should not be used again.

Mr Whitelaw implied that the guidelines were based on the report by Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, on his inquiry into the use of CS during the riots. The Home Secretary said he was in no doubt that the decision to use CS as a last resort was necessary and justified.

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Rumblings of revolt among Tory dissidents

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Conservative MPs who are unhappy over the Government's economic policies held a series of private discussions on their return to Westminster yesterday to consider ways of putting pressure on the Prime Minister to change her strategy.

With the Cabinet meeting today to discuss big savings in public expenditure programmes, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was warned of a revolt by backbenchers if he attempts to raise extra revenue in an early Budget by increasing the petrol and alcohol.

The mood of the dissident Tories was appropriately summed up by Mr Patrick Cormack, MP for Staffordshire, South West, who told *The Times*: "Those of us who question the wisdom of the Government's economic policy were not answered at Blackpool and remain profoundly depressed by the obdurate attitude of the hardliners, who seem quite content to contemplate any sacrifice to maintain doctrinal purity, a strange posture for a Tory."

There is no obvious coordination of the "wets" campaign, but their tactics will clearly be influenced by the outcome of the Croydon, North West, by-election on Thursday, and the attitude of the Cabinet to the Chancellor's request for substantial savings.

If the firm monetarist line is maintained, it was said yesterday, to be all the more likely that Mr Geoffrey Rippon would be "drafted" to challenge Mrs Margaret Thatcher for the leadership.

Meanwhile Sir Ian Gilmour, one of the former ministers who spoke in Blackpool last week, issued an unusual statement of support for Mr John Birt, the Conservative candidate at Croydon, in which he conspicuously omitted to mention government policies.

"If the people of Croydon stick to essentials on Thursday they will keep faith with the Tory party and the Tory tradition," Sir Ian said.

Mr Edward Taylor, MP for Southend, East, last night hit out at Mrs Thatcher's critics. There was something bogus and sinister about the current wave of attacks on her economic policies, he said, because the criticisms were directed at the creation of a myth which MPs knew to be untrue, that the total of three million unemployed directly arose from huge spending cuts and the Prime Minister's obsession with monetarism.

Mrs Thatcher was a person of guts and determination who was best suited to supervising the nation at a time of crisis, he said in Glasgow. "We will certainly not help Britain by seeking to use her as a scapegoat."

Mr Rippon, a former Cabinet minister who is Tory MP for Hexham, said last night that he would offer himself for the party leadership "only in very exceptional circumstances" (the Press Association reports).

Interviewed on the Tyne Tees Television's current affairs programme, *Briefing*, he was asked if he would "put up, or shur up" if he did not get the policies he was advocating. He replied: "Only in very exceptional circumstances, and only where that appeared the only way in which you could get the Government to change course."

Leading article, page 15
Frank Johnson, back page

Mr Birt, who lost the election to Mr Healey by a tiny margin, relied mainly on left-wing backing. He was present last night but did not speak.

Members of the group said that there was still great bitterness about the split vote at the party conference and there could be a serious clash at next week's meeting that might lead to the group's disintegration.

Meanwhile, several of the groups outside Parliament which united to form the Rank and File Mobilising Committee for Labour Party Democracy, which backed Mr Birt for the deputy leadership, have been meeting to decide on the next phase of their campaign to make Labour MPs more accountable to the party conference and constituency parties for their actions in Parliament.

Mr Norman Atkinson, MP for Haringey, Tottenham, former party treasurer and a leading member of the Tribune group, has agreed to chair a new organisation to link the left-wing groups outside Parliament and MPs.

Meet Mr Heath—meet the press, too: The former Prime Minister advancing on the voters of Croydon yesterday, accompanied by the men from the Press Association, *The Times*, the *Daily Mirror*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Daily Mail*, the *ITN* and *The Guardian*.

Action not words, Healey tells Cabinet 'wets'

By John Withers

"There is very deep alarm, not just missing in the Conservative Party," Mr Healey added. Echoing Mr Stanley Orme, opposition spokesman on industry, he said there could be a general election within six months if disillusioned Tories took action and opposed the Government.

Mr Healey believed that internal disputes within the Labour Party had led to the loss of council wards in parts of the country. The two years he waited on internal wrangles did no substantial damage, he said. But because most of those issues had been settled at the Labour Party conference he hoped that by-election, would reverse the trend.

He said a voter for the Liberal-SDP candidate, Mr William Pitt, "would be a vote for Mrs Thatcher's policies" because it would assist the Conservatives.

Mr Birt, who is described by his agents as a "Michael Foot socialist," came under pressure from journalists to explain why Mr Wedgwood Benn had not been invited to join other leading members of the Labour Party in the campaign.

He replied that he did not know Mr Benn and had invited people who could help him to develop certain aspects of Labour Party policy.

Mr John Birt, the Conservative candidate, who was joined by Mr Edward Heath in the afternoon, took a strong stand yesterday on law and order, saying he was in favour of banning all political marches.

Mrs Mary Whitehouse last night asked Mr Roy Jenkins at a public meeting in Croydon what the Social Democrats intended to do about the growth of pornography and sex shops.

The president of the National Viewers and Listeners' Association said that Mr Jenkins's 1959 Obscene Publications Act contained loopholes through which pornographers have made massive fortunes.

Mr Jenkins, surprised by the question, replied that much had changed during the last 20 years and that few wanted to return to a time when D. H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was banned (General election: Taylor, R. G. (C) 19,928; Birt, S. J. (Lab) 16,159; Pitt, W. H. (L) 4,295; majority 3,769).

Tenants told to beware of low-flying concrete

From John Young, Planning Reporter, Bedford

Hundreds of tenants on a council estate in Bedford, Northamptonshire, have been warned by Bedford District Council to stay clear of the front and back walls of their houses because of falling concrete.

They have also been told, however, that there is no prospect of repair work before next summer. Nor has it been established who will pay the bill, which is likely to run into millions of pounds.

The Abbey Farm estate was built by the Greater London Council about twelve years ago, primarily to accommodate Londoners moving to Bedford under an "expanding town" agreement.

It consists of 850 houses and about 150 flats, is built on a spacious scale and until recently was popular with tenants, many of whom intended to apply to buy their homes.

About two years ago cracks began appearing in the front and rear support beams, which run the length of the walls at first floor level. Since then deterioration has been so severe that there is hardly a beam in any of the houses that does not show cracks or corrosion stains.

In many cases large pieces have broken off and supports have had to be placed underneath.

The trouble is believed to have been caused by a quick-dry additive which was incorrectly applied and has caused corrosion of the steel rods used to reinforce the beams.

After 1976, when the GLC ended its expanding town agreements, ownership of the estate was transferred to Bedford. The two councils are locked in legal argument over who should pay for the repairs.

So far the closest anyone has come to injury was when concrete fell into a garden in which a baby was asleep. But tenants have been perturbed

by the council's letter, which said: "Under no circumstances should you sit or leave prams or children in the street to play close to the walls."

Last month a newly formed committee of the Abbey Farm community association called a public meeting which more than 400 people attended.

Mr David Ward, the committee secretary, said that the press and public galleries in the council chamber were invariably cleared whenever Abbey Farm was discussed.

The committee has taken legal action to force the council to begin repairs, and also whether tenants can claim rent reductions.

Several tenants complained yesterday that routine maintenance work on the estate had been neglected for months. That, together with the delay in beginning repairs and the council's refusal to allow tenants to exercise their right to buy their homes, has prompted suspicion that there may be plans to bulldoze the estate and rebuild it.

But Mr Barry Heath, the council's chief executive, denied that demolition was being considered.

Last month's meeting, at which the proceedings had to be relayed by public address system to those unable to get into the hall, had not been considered an "appropriate" occasion for councillors to answer questions.

As for refusing tenants the right to buy, the council's legal advisers had said it would not be in either the council's or the tenants' interests for the estate to be sold.

"I used to sleep right through the air raids in the East End," Mrs Rosalind Pickton, the committee treasurer, said. "But during the storm a few days ago I don't think any of us slept a wink."

Retrial ordered
The trial on a murder charge of Keith Lock, aged 33, of Mill Hill, London, was stopped at the Central Criminal Court yesterday, by Judge Edward Clarke after legal submissions.

A retrial was ordered for Mr Lock, who denies murdering a woman.

Prisoner dies
Julie Potter, aged 21, a Holloway prisoner, who sustained severe burns when her nightdress caught fire, died in a hospital yesterday, the Home Office said. She was serving 18 months for assault.

Wind surfers rescued
Two wind surfers who made an attempt to cross the Channel from Hythe to France yesterday in a gale force wind had to be rescued after abandoning the crossing half way across.

Two in jail break
Two inmates escaped over the wall from Northallerton prison, North Yorkshire, yesterday. Paul Quinn, aged 29, from Cleveland, was serving three years for assault with intent to rob, and Terence Swan, aged 22, from Oldham, Lancashire, three years for burglary.

Front firm wound up
NF Properties Ltd, the property arm of the National Front, was compulsorily wound up in the High Court in London yesterday.

Woman of 90 'took longer to die than she should'

By Frances Gibb

A man said in the Central Criminal Court yesterday that Mark Lyons, who is accused of murdering a woman, aged 90, told him she was a tough old bird.

Mr Lyons, aged 70, a part-time helper with EXIT, the voluntary euthanasia society, had come by arrangement to the house where the old woman lived with her daughter and son-in-law, because she wanted to die, the man said.

Coming home from work, the son-in-law was told by his wife that his mother-in-law was in a coma. Mr Lyons said that death was taking longer than it should do, he told the court.

On the day of the mother's death, the daughter told the court, she left the front door open so that Mr Lyons could let himself in, and a note on the table told the police.

In this, she described how her mother had got herself ready. "She was determined to look very nice on the day of her death. She put her hair in curlers and gave herself a backache."

The daughter added on the note: "Thank you for what you do for those at the end of their lives."

She said that after two hours Mr Lyons came down and said the mother was still not dead.

"I said: 'Oh dear, she is not going through all that again,'" Mr Lyons, of Fairbairn, Glasgow, West Hamstead, and Mr Reed, of Sanford Walk, New Cross, said various charges of aiding and abetting or conspiring to aid and abet eight people to kill themselves.

Mr Lyons is accused of murdering one of the victims and of aiding and abetting five to kill themselves. Mr Reed faces two charges of aiding and abetting and they both face three charges of conspiracy to aid and abet. Both deny all charges.

The hearing continues today.

Big crowds attend Barnett sale
The contents of the Leicester home of Lady Barnett, the television personality who killed herself after an 87p conviction for shoplifting last year, were auctioned by Christie's South Kensington yesterday. The auction was held in a large marquee in the garden of the White House, Cossington, where about 1,500 bidders and tourists gathered for the event.

The sale, which topped £100,000, was attended by Lady Barnett's son, Alistair, and provided a sensation for the neighbourhood. The tiny village could not cater for all the visitors, who were fed on the premises, "six abreast."

The contents were typical of a prosperous country home. The top prize was secured at £4,600, a Russell Flint watercolour of "Ladies by a lakeside".

Sale Room, page 16

DOCHERTY'S ORDEAL IN COURT-QC

Tommy Docherty, the football manager, was "psychologically crippled" by a hostile cross-examination when he gave evidence in a libel case, his counsel told a central criminal court jury yesterday.

The former manager of Manchester United, who is accused of lying about football transfers, had been asked questions which were factually wrong, resulting in false assumptions being made about him by the people in court, Mr Richard Du Cann, QC, said.

Mr Docherty, aged 53, denies two charges of perjury arising from a High Court libel action he brought but later abandoned after admitting telling "a pack of lies".

Mr Du Cann said Mr Docherty's lawyer in the libel case had failed to intervene when incorrect questions were put to his client.

In such a cross-examination as that imposed on Docherty, the witness box becomes the loneliest place in the world. The trial continues today.

Go back to the voters, Benn tells defectors

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

Labour left-wingers who went to the Tribune group meeting at the Commons last night expected a showdown between Mr Wedgwood Benn's supporters in the deputy leadership election and the 20 who either abstained or voted for Mr Denis Healey. But the inquest did not take place.

With an eye on the chances of Mr Stanley Boden, the Labour candidate, winning the Croydon North West by-election on Thursday, the left-wingers responded to an appeal by a chairman, Mr Ian Mikardo, MP for Bethnal Green and Bow, that the group should avoid giving the impression of a party at loggerheads and defer discussion on the deputy leadership election until next week.

Mr Mikardo was supported in his views by Mr Robert Crier (Kingsley) and Mr Allan Roberts (Bottle), and the group decided to demonstrate their loyalty to the party by sending between 30 and 40 MPs to Croydon to help Mr Boden.

More than 30 members of the group signed a Commons motion tabled by Mr Benn asking that the 20 former Labour MPs and one Conservative who have defected to the Social Democratic Party should resign their seats forthwith and submit themselves for reelection as SDP candidates. "So that their constituents may determine who they wish to represent them."

Mr Benn, who lost the election to Mr Healey by a tiny margin, relied mainly on left-wing backing. He was present last night but did not speak.

Members of the group said that there was still great bitterness about the split vote at the party conference and there could be a serious clash at next week's meeting that might lead to the group's disintegration.

Meanwhile, several of the groups outside Parliament which united to form the Rank and File Mobilising Committee for Labour Party Democracy, which backed Mr Benn for the deputy leadership, have been meeting to decide on the next phase of their campaign to make Labour MPs more accountable to the party conference and constituency parties for their actions in Parliament.

Mr Norman Atkinson, MP for Haringey, Tottenham, former party treasurer and a leading member of the Tribune group, has agreed to chair a new organisation to link the left-wing groups outside Parliament and MPs.

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Science report Chimpanzee which understands numbers

By the Staff of "Nature"

Sarah, a female chimpanzee kept at the University of Pennsylvania, is proving to be something of an Einstein in the animal world. An ingenious series of laboratory tests has shown that she is able to make judgments based on the concepts of "proportion" and "number" and thus to grasp the fundamental ideas required for an understanding of mathematics.

The achievement crowns a long, intellectual career for Sarah, who has spent a total of 16 years at the university's Department of Psychology and has been tackling cognitive problems five days a week for the past 12 years.

In that time she has mastered a "vocabulary" of simple visual "words" learnt to reconstruct objects that she has seen taken to pieces, shown an ability to reason by analogy, presented her trainer with a picture of a stick when she saw a videotape of him struggling to restrain her from accessible bananas, and has even been the first non-human to be accused of lying. She consistently indicated the wrong hiding place of some food that she did not want her trainer to find and eat.

Her latest achievement, again demonstrating that a human ability may be shared by the higher primates, was demonstrated in a series of tests devised by Dr Guy Woodruff and her lifelong trainer, Dr David Premack.

Essentially, a test to show an understanding of "proportion" was conducted. It was a question of the kind: "Is a half full jar of water more similar to half an apple or to a whole apple?" A question was asked by presenting Sarah with two plastic jars, either one-quarter or one-half full of water.

She was then shown two test objects quite different from the jars. In each of which again demonstrated a particular proportion. If she chose the matching proportion she received a reward.

In the tests, the jars were either round foods, such as apples, potatoes or grapefruit, from which a proportion of the segments had been cut, or plain grey wooden discs with the four corners sliced off.

Sarah had no difficulty in picking the object showing the

'Sunday Express' to appear before murder case judge

A representative from the *Sunday Express* is to be called before the Down's syndrome baby murder trial today to explain an article commenting on the case in last Sunday's paper. The fifth day of the trial was delayed yesterday after a complaint to Mr Justice Farquharson from Mr George Carman, QC, who is defending Dr Leonard Arthur, a consultant paediatrician.

Dr Arthur, aged 55, of Church Broughton, Derbyshire, has denied murdering a three-day-old baby, John Pearson, at Derby City Hospital in July last year.

Mr Carman gave the judge a copy of the *Sunday Express* article written by its editor, Sir John Junor. He reminded the judge that last week he had criticized as "deplorable" an article in the *Daily Mail*, and had asked the jury not to read press reports of the case.

Mr Carman said the *Sunday Express* article was "journalistic journalism of the worst kind." He asked the judge to refer it to Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General.

Of Sir John, Mr Carman said: "This journalist, as I understand it, was absent from the court last week and is commenting on matters which took place in his absence. It is in stark contrast to the very high standard of reporting which has been observed by those journalists present."

After reading the article, Mr Justice Farquharson said: "He says he makes no comment — after writing three paragraphs about it. It is quite untrue on the evidence, isn't it?"

The judge said it was an extremely serious matter, but he did not want to act precipitately. He was worried that the defendant, Dr Arthur, would feel more and more prejudiced.

The court would get in touch with the *Sunday Express*, and "I will expect somebody to be here tomorrow on their behalf to address me and if possible to explain this article." He would then decide on the proper course to take.

He was not disposed yesterday to pass on the matter to the Attorney General, but he feared the defendant would feel "gravely prejudiced".

The standard of reporting in the case had been excellent and it would be a tragedy if that kind of article jeopardized and blackened the press, the judge added.

Mr Douglas Draycott, QC, for the prosecution, has alleged that Dr Arthur prescribed the drug DF118 for the baby, who died on July 28, and that the drug suppressed his appetite and impaired breathing.

He has claimed that that treatment was designed to kill the child, who had been rejected by his parents, Mr John Pearson and his wife, who live at Wirksworth, Derbyshire.

The trial resumed with the cross-examination by Mr Carman of Mr Margaret Slater, the state-registered nurse, who on Friday told the court that her daughter had been born with brain damage and but for Dr Arthur and his team would have died.

She said yesterday that the drug in syrup form in distilled water was given purely to relieve symptoms of distress. When the child ceased to take the feed there was no attempt to make him. "You cannot force a baby to take a meal."

A gastric feed via a tube down the throat was considered, but he would be allowed to feed the baby that way only if authorized. "The reason I wished to feed the baby in this way was because of the extremely grave distress," she said. "My baby died about five hours later."

Another witness, Nurse Diana Chapman, broke down when asked what Dr Arthur's attitude would have been if the parents did not want the baby kept alive. She replied: "He would have been kept comfortable and nursed, as he was." She agreed with Mr Carman that Dr Arthur would "strain every effort" if the parents had said they wanted the baby to live.

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Polytechnics gain from cuts at universities

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The number of students accepted for first-year undergraduate courses this autumn looks certain to be a record, despite Government cuts in spending on higher education.

Universities have accepted 4 per cent fewer home students compared with last year, but the intake at polytechnics has more than compensated for the loss. In many places it is up by more than a quarter compared with 1980.

The latest official figures show that 75,700 home students were accepted to start undergraduate courses in universities this autumn, 3,200 fewer than last year. The number of overseas students accepted for undergraduate courses at universities has dropped by about a fifth, from 5,750 to 4,600. No figures have yet been collected centrally for this year's undergraduate intake into polytechnics, but individual institutions are reporting a wide range of increases in total first-year admissions, despite a continuing fall in overseas student numbers.

The biggest increase so far is at Teesside Polytechnic, where the first-year intake is 38 per cent above last year's, partly because last year's intake was below target. The increase means that courses such as engineering, where there were previously spare places, are full.

Sheffield, Middlesex, Portsmouth, Sunderland and Kingston polytechnics reported an increase of about a quarter compared with last year; that compares with an average growth over the previous few years of 5 per cent or less. Many students have had to be found away from the most popular courses such as business studies, computer science and electronic engineering.

At Leicester first-year numbers are up by 15 per cent at Manchester, Wolverhampton, the Polytechnic of Central London and North East London Polytechnic by about 10 per cent; and at the Polytechnic of North London by about 7 per cent.

But at Oxford Polytechnic, which is expected to adhere fairly closely to targets set by the local authority, the intake is the same as last year and on target.

RESUMPTION AT MERSEY DOCKS

Cargo handling was resumed on 11 freighters and seven coasters in the port of Liverpool yesterday as most of the 3,500 dockers went back to work after their week-long strike over a minor manning dispute had closed the port. Altogether 615 men; more than one in six of the labour force, had to be sent home on fallback pay because there was no work for them, while pay and productivity talks were resumed to avoid further disruption.

PERJURY FINE

Mohammed Janjua, aged 49, chairman of Northampton Pakistan welfare association, was given a nine-month sentence suspended for two years and fined £750 yesterday at Northampton Crown Court after admitting perjury at the criminal proceedings of a nephew accused of drug smuggling. He also admitted trying to pervert the course of justice.

Attendance record for Picasso

By Our Arts Correspondent

The Picasso exhibition, which closed a week ago after a 12-week run, broke all records for attendance at an Arts Council exhibition at the Hayward Gallery.

Over 221,618 Picassos. An exhibition from the Musée Picasso, Paris, was seen by 221,618, which was the highest total for any exhibition staged by the Arts Council during the gallery's 13-year history.

During the exhibition the Arts Council extended concessionary admission rates to the unemployed, a policy that was continued at the Hayward Gallery until further notice.

The exhibition, selected by Sir Roland Penrose, Dr John Gollings and M. Dominique Bozo, consisted of 130 paintings, 55 sculptures, 179 drawings and 90 graphics chosen from the works in Picasso's estate.

5 CHARGED WITH KIDNAP OF IRANIANS

Five men accused of kidnapping two Iranian government officials and an Iranian banker appeared before Marylebone magistrates in London yesterday.

Richard Page, a chauffeur, of Drayton Way, Kenton, Middlesex, Peter Dean, a mechanical engineer, of Queen Mary's Road, Upper Norwood, south London, William White, a labourer, and Ronald White, both of Abbotbury Road, Morden, Surrey, and Benjamin Nodjoudi, an Iranian businessman, of Water Gardens, Burwood Place, Paddington, were remanded in custody.

Mr Nodjoudi was remanded in police custody for 48 hours and the other men are to appear in court on October 26. They were charged with assault and unlawfully imprisoning and detaining the three men against their will at Water Gardens, Burwood Place, Paddington. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Whitehall brief

Myth catches up with Thatcher

By Peter Hennessy

History has the pleasing habit of catching up with politicians who trifle with the truth. It is doubly charming when myths are exposed while their protagonists still hold high office.

The present Prime Minister, for example, in the run-up to the 1979 general election, made much of the view that the Conservative Party on its return to power in 1951 had indeed "set the people free" as its manifesto promised. Questioned about the economic strategy she might pursue if elected, she would direct attention to what "Rab" (Lord Butler of Saferton Walden) had done as Chancellor of the Exchequer between 1951 and 1955.

An immensely thorough account of Sir Winston Churchill's last administration, to be published next week, shows that in 1951 Lord Butler did very little to alter the course set by his Labour predecessor, the late Hugh Gaitskelli, apart from the very un-Tory decision to cut defence spending.

The volume, entitled *Churchill's Indian Summer*, cites the view of Lord Croham, the former Treasury official perhaps better known as Sir Douglas Allen, that less change occurred in economic policy in 1951 than at any other transfer of power since the Second World War. Its author, Dr Anthony Seldon, asked in conversation last week: "Where is the evidence for Mrs Thatcher saying Rab was the beacon?"

"Churchill had brought the country through the war... There was a man deeply moved by the circumstances of what he called his 'island people', a man of very profound conservatism in stricts. I feel that it is a travesty for Margaret Thatcher to see herself as Churchill's spiritual heir. True, they share courage. But Churchill's courage was founded upon the bedrock of a profound feeling of communion with ordinary people. Margaret Thatcher's on an intellectual insight."

Apart from teaching the Prime Minister a lesson in political history, and showing that Churchill, though aging, was far from the drink-soaked, near-ga-ga shell of his former self exerting the feeblest grip on the affairs of state that he has sometimes been depicted, Dr Seldon's book is interesting and important for another, wider reason.

His work has broken new ground by taking fully into account the role, influence and powers of the senior Civil Service, Britain's "permanent politicians", as James MacGregor Burns called them. Accumulating material through an extensive programme of interviewing, Dr Seldon has reconstructed the atmosphere and the networks of the private world of early 1950s Whitehall, an era in which the phrase "freedom of information" had yet to disturb the measured work-style of the brokers of bureaucratic power.

He illuminates, for example, the importance of the highly efficient Secretary of the Cabinet, Sir Norman Brook, in supporting Sir Winston. The very powerful combination of Mr Peter (now Lord) Thorneycroft and Sir Frank Lee at the Board of Trade in, among other things, weaning the party of empire away from imperial preference and towards free trade, is fully depicted.

Likewise, the significance of strong permanent secretaries in shaping policy in departments languishing under weak ministerial leadership is brought out by dissecting the role of Sir John Maud (now Lord Redcliffe-Maud) at the Ministry of Education, and Sir Henry Hancock at the Ministry of Food. On that score, too, there is something for Mrs Thatcher's economic advisers; some of whom believe, as they battle with unyielding indicators and a deeply sceptical Civil Service, that the machinery of government has long been weakened by the corrosion of Keynesianism.

Dr Seldon's anatomy of the Treasury under Rab is fleshed out with plenty of red meat for conspiracy theorists in high places. By determining which officials exerted the most influence over the new Chancellor in 1951, he shows that there were four who stood out: the late Sir Leslie Rowan, Mr Robert Hall (now Lord Robert Hall), Sir Edwin (now Lord) Plowden and the late William Armstrong (who became Lord Armstrong of Sanderstead).

"They were all Keynesians," Dr Seldon said last week, "who had worked with Dalton, Cripps and Gaitskelli. Butler did not have strong economic ideas of his own. He was not an original economic thinker — many things, but not that."

He is adamant that, in future, scholars must examine the convictions of civil servants, a notion he added, that many retired officials find abhorrent. But, he explained, "to write history excluding civil servants is to offer a one-eyed understanding."

Churchill's Indian Summer, by Anthony Seldon, is to be published by Hodder on October 26, price £14.95. It will be reviewed in *The Times* by Mr Enoch Powell on October 29.



Comedy capers: Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise, the entertainers, as they appear in a book of photographs, "The Great British" by Arnold Newman, published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

ITV unwraps Christmas package

Independent Television released details yesterday of its Christmas programmes and said that the package, which includes several popular films, should cause "some very worried faces at the BBC".

The Morecambe and Wise comedy show has been dropped after 14 years as a regular part of Christmas Day viewing. The show will be broadcast, but not on Christmas night.

Among the highlights are a special show by Bruce Forsyth, which was saved yesterday when a strike was called off, and the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

Morecambe and Wise will not appear on Christmas night because they now work for Thames Television after a long association with the BBC.

Christmas Day falls on a Friday, and the company responsible for programmes that day is London Weekend.

Executives refused yesterday to say exactly when the show would go out. They would only say that it would be broadcast during the run-up to Christmas.

Other stars in the package include The Goodies, Harry Secombe, Jim Davidson, Petula Clark, Bob Monkhouse and Michael Aspel.

Princess Anne and Freddie Starr, the comedian, will be among documentary subjects during the Christmas period, which will span 15 days.

Princess Anne will be shown both in public and private life in a programme made during several months earlier this year.

Independent television also revealed a strong line-up of films that have been box office hits, headed by *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, starring Richard Dreyfuss. Other films include

"Scooge", *The Way We Were*, *Sweeney II*, *The 39 Steps*, and *The Muppet Movie*.

Mr Michael Grade, London Weekend Television's director of programmes, said independent television was going on the offensive this Christmas.

"We have a very strong set of programmes", he said. "He would not give details of when and at what times the programmes would be screened over the Christmas period. The company is waiting to see the BBC's Christmas package before putting final details to its schedules."

A special Christmas production by Bruce Forsyth was saved yesterday when a strike by 100 carpenters and painters in the scenery construction department at Thames Television's Teddington studios was called off. The recording this week would have been cancelled had the strike continued.

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Ambition 'drove surgeon and mistress to murder'

From Ronald Kershaw, Middlesbrough

A surgeon and his mistress murdered his wife because she stood in the way of their ambitions, it was alleged at Teesside Crown Court yesterday. The mistress later told police that her lover had dishonestly obtained a dangerous drug which, the Crown alleged, was used to kill his wife.

Paul Richard Jarvis Vickers, aged 47, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon of Moor Crescent, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Pamela Ester Collison, aged 34, a research assistant of Margaret Road, New Barnet, Herts., pleaded not guilty to murdering Mrs Margaret Vickers, aged 43, the wife of Mr Vickers, on June 14, 1979. They appeared before Mr Justice Boreham.

Mr Harry Ognall, QC, for the Crown, said the cause of Mrs Vickers' death was a rare condition known as aplastic anaemia. It was not a natural or accidental death, and the Crown's case was that her illness was caused by the deliberate conduct of her husband knowingly assisted by Miss Collison. They administered to her over several months an extremely dangerous drug obtained dishonestly. "In effect, Mrs Vickers was poisoned," Mr Ognall said.

It was not essential for the Crown to prove motive, Mr Ognall said but "you may conclude with little difficulty that Mrs Vickers died because she stood in the way of the various ambitions of these two defendants, who had been lovers for some time but whose purpose would not be served merely by divorce or separation."

He said Mrs Vickers was "a grave impediment" to her husband's ambitions in politics.

Mr Ognall told the jury of seven men and five women that Mr Vickers and his late wife met as undergraduates at Cambridge. She became a teacher at Newcastle and they married in 1962 shortly after Mr Vickers qualified. They had one son, born in 1963.

The evidence suggested that the two were ill matched and with the passing years disparity between them became obvious not only to Mr Vickers but also those who knew them.

Mr Ognall said Mr Vickers was consultant orthopaedic surgeon in the accident department of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, but the job did not satisfy him. He was keenly interested in medical politics and had served on medical committees at local and national level for years, with special interest in the EEC.

He had been a member of the council of the British Medical Association and had represented the BMA executive on EEC matters. He was once considered as prospective Conservative candidate for Northumbria in the European Parliament.

Mr Ognall described Mr Vickers as successful and outgoing. He enjoyed the friendship of politicians and his activities in that sphere had gained him entry to a much wider stage than the north of England.

Evidence disclosed Mrs Vickers as partially crippled from birth, obsessively shy, solitary and almost friendless. From her marriage in 1962 she developed symptoms of schizophrenia, essentially a withdrawal from the world, suspicion of others and chronic depression.

He described how she was treated by doctors for most of the rest of her life. From 1978 she became dirty and untidy and "locked in the prison of her life and unable to escape."

Mr Ognall told the jury: "It will be for you to say whether these assessments of Mrs Vickers are accurate and fair and what part their undoubtedly disparate characters played in these matters. It would be difficult to conceive of a wife who could less serve the needs and ambitions of her husband."



Paul Vickers arriving at Teesside Crown Court yesterday.

Miss Collison was a graduate of Leeds University with a degree in economics and statistics. She took an MA at York and worked as a research assistant or statistician and speech writer, Mr Ognall said. She had held various positions of considerable responsibility in politics and elsewhere.

She was later to say she met Paul Vickers in 1975 when he was 41 and she was 27. They met in London through mutual interest in Conservative politics and it might be said she assisted him in his world of medical politics.

Mr Ognall said: "It is beyond doubt that from 1977 these two persons shared a clandestine and passionate sexual liaison."

Counsel said that about five months after Mrs Vickers died, Miss Collison wrote to a local clergyman saying she was pregnant and alleging that Mr Vickers was the father. Towards the end of 1979 Miss Collison said she would marry Mr Vickers on December 15, 1979, at Marybone registry office, six months after Mrs Vickers' death. Mr Ognall said Mrs Vickers' death was regarded with suspicion by doctors, and police investigations began nearly a year later, probably as a direct consequence of the intervention of Miss Collison in alleging that Mr Vickers had been obtaining drugs by deception.

He told the jury: "Why she chose to raise the matter at that stage, what connexion it has, if any, with her own frustrated intentions to marry Mr Vickers, and what light it sheds on her involvement in the death of Mrs Vickers are questions you will have to consider."

"You may think that her conduct in drawing this matter to the attention of the police will be a central part of her defence."

Mr Ognall later told the jury that on May 15, 1978, Mr Vickers, when being considered as a candidate for Northumbria at the European Parliament went to see a Mr Simon Hogg, Conservative Party agent for a Newcastle MP, and asked his advice.

Mr Ognall alleged that Mr Vickers told Mr Hogg he was having difficulties with his wife and had put up with her abnormal behaviour for years. He said Mr Vickers spoke of his association with a girl from London whom he identified as working for Mr Michael Heseltine, and Mr Ognall said "that woman was Pamela Collison".

The case continues today.



The Cup that leaketh: Mr Matthew Ridge, a silversmith, examining the FA cup which was yesterday brought back for repair by Fattocini and Sons of Sheffield, who designed the trophy 70 years ago. The holders, Tottenham Hotspur, found it leaked champagne from a small hole.

Archbishop will back Bill change

By a Staff Reporter

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, is expected to speak today against the nationality Bill and to support an amendment from Labour peers which says the Bill will result in injustice and exacerbate racial tension.

The Labour amendment, tabled for third reading of the Bill in the House of Lords today, says that the legislation will greatly increase the number of stateless men, women and children and create new uncertainties and feelings of insecurity.

The Bill is unlikely to be changed further in the Lords but there is a possibility that the Government will try to amend it when it goes back to the floor of the House of Commons.

Ministers are not happy with the change made in the Lords to the position of residents of Gibraltar who are now to be British citizens.

They feel that that is an anomaly. Residents of other colonies, such as the Falkland Islands, will not be British. But the Government is keen for the Bill to become law and may not want to hold it up.

Dentist caused death of patient, QC says

A dentist caused the death of a woman patient who had gone to his surgery to have a troublesome tooth out, it was alleged at Teesside Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Wilson Mellor, QC, said that the dentist, Indian-born Kewal Abrol, aged 53, gave the woman, Mrs Joyce Foundling, of Thackwell Road, Erington, Birmingham, an injection and then administered a general anaesthetic, even though his dental assistant had gone home.

Mrs Foundling never regained consciousness, and died after inhaling her own vomit at Mr Abrol's surgery in Gravelly Hill North, Erington. Mr Mellor said that after showing Mrs Foundling into the surgery the dental receptionist went home. He added: "It is never proper or safe for a person to administer a general anaesthetic and undertake dental surgery while he is alone and when no nurse is present to attend to the needs of the patient."

Mr Abrol has pleaded not guilty to manslaughter. Mr Mellor said Mrs Foundling was given an injection of Melbexone, which has the effect of depressing the

respiratory system. After giving the injection it would have been quite improper to administer nitrous oxide. After Mrs Foundling had been in the surgery for about ten minutes Mr Abrol came out and told Mr Foundling that his wife was asleep and taking a long time to come round.

To have left the patient alone at that point, unattended and for an extended period, before recovering from a general anaesthetic, was "disgraceful conduct," said Mr Mellor.

It was the Crown's case that Mrs Foundling did not die instantly. "There must have been a terrible sound as she struggled for breath," he told the jury.

Eventually an ambulance was called, but when it arrived the patient had stopped breathing and there was no pulse. Two ambulance men spent half an hour trying to revive her by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and cardiac massage.

Mr Mellor said it was the Crown's case that Mr Abrol had been grossly negligent because he embarked on a general anaesthetic while alone in his surgery.

The hearing continues today.

From yesterday's later editions

Police chief says he favours complaints body

Mr Albert Laucharne, Chief Constable of Lancashire, told the Guild of British Newspaper Editors in Bath that he favoured independent inquiries into complaints against police.

The police were awaiting the Scarman report with bated breath, he said. "It is likely to give us a bloody nose. But chief constables generally welcomed such debates on accountability and considered them healthy and necessary," he said.

"The only way to put to bed public discontent about investigations of police complaints is to have an independent body." He did not believe that only the police could investigate the police. Investigation could be done by an outside body, but he was not sure that this would be an improvement on the present position.

Commons seat inquiry

A public inquiry is to be held at Chichester on November 3 into a proposal by the Boundary Commission to transfer the northern parishes of the Mid-Sussex parliamentary constituency into a new Crawley seat. The change could give Labour its first MP in the north of the county. Mr Ronald Renton, Conservative, is the MP for Mid-Sussex.

Council's by-pass law

Local authorities are accused of by-passing a recent law requiring them to put out building work for tender to private contractors. The National Federation of Building Trades Employers said that the Local Government, Planning and Land Act has been in operation only since April, yet the federation had already found numerous examples of local authorities seeking to undermine or circumvent its provisions.

Customs man denies fear

A customs investigator denied yesterday that he gave up following a man because he was frightened.

Mr Mark Bragg, of the Customs and Investigation Branch, told a jury at the Central Criminal Court that he followed a male suspect in Glasgow and then Hyde Park London. But he gave up the Hyde Park observation because there were too few people about to keep his cover.

He denied a suggestion by a defence counsel that he was frightened because a vicious

Britain lags behind Europe in value of jobless payments

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

With unemployment approaching three millions and the Cabinet expected to discuss further social security cuts today, new figures show that unemployment benefit has fallen to its lowest point compared to wages since April, 1975. The unemployed man in Britain is considerably poorer than his counterpart in most of Europe.

Flat rate unemployment benefit is now £20.65 a week for a single person, and £33.40 for a man with dependent wife. When they were introduced in November, 1980, those rates were worth respectively 18.1 and 29.3 per cent of gross average earnings for male manual workers, exactly the same proportion as in April, 1975.

The value of unemployment benefit compared to wages has fallen in each of the last two years, and is now at a lower level than in July, 1949, at the start of the national insurance scheme. But it has fluctuated in between, with the highest level compared to wages being achieved between 1963 and 1969.

Less than half the unemployed receive flat rate benefit, either because they do not have the right contribution record or because they have exhausted their benefit, which is paid for a maximum of one year. The minority who receive earnings related supplement of a maximum of £14 a week have experienced a similar drop in the value of their incomes compared with wages.

A man who had earned average wages for adult male manual workers in his last job would have received £33.34 a week in benefit plus earnings related supplement if he was single, and £46.09 if he was married.

Those sums amounted to 29.2 and 40.4 per cent respectively of average earnings, the lowest point in both cases since it was introduced in 1966. The maximum supplement payable was reduced this year and it is being abolished completely in January.

In contrast, means-tested supplementary benefit improved slightly compared with wages for the unemployed. In November, 1980, supplementary benefit for a single man was £21.50 a week and for a married couple £34.60. These rates were equivalent to 18.7 and 30.3 per cent of gross average earnings of male manual workers in the previous year, but still lower than the level in November, 1979.

Those figures do not show the effect on the incomes of unemployed families. The Child Poverty Action Group estimates that flat rate unemployment benefit for a man with a dependent wife and two children has fallen to its lowest level for 20 years compared with wages.

25% FARM PAY RISE SOUGHT

By Hugh Clayton, Agriculture Correspondent

Farm workers yesterday demanded a rise worth more than 25 per cent on average weekly earnings. The National Farmers' Union indicated at the start of the annual wage round for more than 100,000 farm workers in England and Wales that it was determined not to concede a double-figure rise.

The National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers and the Transport and General Workers' Union said in their joint claim to the Agricultural Wages Board that they wanted "a substantial increase" to bring them up to the average in urban industry.

Mr Jack Boddy, general secretary of the NUAUW, said before yesterday's meeting of the board in London that the average weekly pay of farm workers was £96.09, compared with £125.80 in urban industry.

The union team said at the meeting that some earnings were low enough to entitle farmworkers to family income supplement.

Mr Boddy recalled that at the Conservatives' conference Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, had congratulated farm workers for not striking or imposing restrictive practices. He appealed to the minister to ensure that their pay was brought up to urban levels.

The union team also demanded a cut in the working week from 40 to 35 hours and higher rates of holiday pay. They claimed at yesterday's meeting that farm workers in Britain were the worst paid in the EEC.

The NFU said: "Farm incomes are going down for the fifth successive year and have fallen by a minimum of 40 per cent in the past five years. One cannot see how farm workers can expect to get more money."

Workers who volunteered to lose jobs forfeit date

From Tim Jones, Merthyr Tydfil

Plans by companies throughout Britain to shed labour to become more competitive could be disrupted because of a ruling by the Department of Employment which is to be challenged by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Under the ruling more than 1,000 workers at the Hoover plant at Merthyr Tydfil will have to survive for up to 20 weeks without unemployment pay because they accepted extra payments on top of the legal compensation for voluntary redundancy.

Union officials at the plant say the workers will be denied unemployment benefit because they accepted additional payments, averaging £1,200 each offered as an incentive to leave.

Mr William Bish the union's works convenor at the factory, said: "Quite clearly this decision affects every company in the land who are attempting to trim their workforce by offering additional payments over the legal minimum."

The group estimates that benefit for such a family is now worth 48.1 per cent of net average earnings for male manual workers, compared with 44.9 per cent in 1961.

All benefits are due to go up on November 23, and there are growing doubts about the accuracy of the Government's forecast of inflation which underpins the increases. The Government took special powers to limit the increase to a lower rate than the inflation forecast, and promised to make good next year any shortfall for pensioners and other long-term beneficiaries.

The unemployed do not count as long-term, however long they are out of work, because they cannot qualify for the long-term rates of supplementary benefit. Their benefits are therefore limited, it costs £215m to increase benefits by 1 per cent across the board, and £710m of that goes on increasing long-term benefit.

Child benefit, which is not included in the previous figure, costs £55m to increase by 10p a week. It continues to be paid to the unemployed, but is deducted from supplementary benefit if they claim. The level of child support is generally better in most of Europe than in Britain, although international comparisons are notoriously difficult.

Most European countries have decentralised social security systems, with unemployment pay linked to particular industries and related to earnings. Most have a fall-back assistance scheme, but most of these schemes pay less than is available under insurance benefits, in contrast to British practice. But generally, unemployed people are better off in Europe than in Britain.

In Denmark, all employees are covered by insurance schemes which pay 90 per cent of their insurable earnings up to a maximum benefit in 1980 of £129.64 a week. It is paid immediately for up to three years.

In Germany, all employees are entitled to 68 per cent of their previous take-home pay if they have had at least six months' insured employment during the last three years. But that is based on a maximum wage of £23.56 a week.

In France, where there are five basic systems of unemployment pay, employees are entitled to a basic benefit of more than 42 per cent of insurable earnings, ranging from a minimum of 56.29 a day to 90 per cent of insurable earnings.

Belgium paid a minimum of £9.54 a day to unemployed heads of households last year, with a daily maximum of £12.50. Unemployment benefit is paid indefinitely.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Benefits for the unemployed compared with gross average earnings: Flat Rate Unemployment Benefit:

Date	(a) Benefit as percentage of average earnings of male manual workers		(b) Benefit as percentage of average earnings of all adult males (NES)	
	Man or single woman	Man plus dependent wife	Man or single woman	Man plus dependent wife
November 1979	18.7	29.3	18.9	29.7
November 1978	18.50	29.95	18.8	29.8
November 1980	20.65	33.40	18.1	29.3

Flatrate unemployment benefit plus earnings related supplements:

Date	Benefit plus ERS as percentage of average earnings of male manual workers		Benefit plus ERS as percentage of average earnings of all adult males (NES)	
	Man plus dependent wife	Man plus dependent wife	Man plus dependent wife	Man plus dependent wife
November 1979	27.28	40.4	22.4	34.4
November 1978	30.37	41.82	20.6	32.6
November 1980	33.34	46.09	20.2	30.4

* Earnings related supplement is being abolished in January, 1982.

Supplementary Benefit:

Date	(a) Benefit as percentage of average earnings of male manual workers		(b) Benefit as percentage of average earnings of all adult males (NES)	
	Single householder	Married couple	Single householder	Married couple
November 1979	15.55	25.25	18.8	28.3
November 1978	18.30	28.70	18.8	28.1
November 1980	21.30	34.60	18.7	30.3

Source: Social Security Statistics 1980, with November, 1980 collection figures added.

There is now no incentive to volunteer for redundancy because all it amounts to is that the company is paying dole money in advance.

The union intends to challenge the ruling, which means in effect that ex-gratia payments are regarded as additional wages.

Three MFs also intend to challenge the ruling and some have asked for the jobs back on the grounds they were misled by the company. Mr Bish said the union would examine the possibility of taking legal action against Hoover.

"There are no huge family redundancy payments for the type of jobs enjoyed by steelworkers."

'Is it true, what they say about Ken?'



Ken Livingstone confronts his press critics. Live on the air from the banks of the River Thames at 6.55 on Thames. Who's buying up Stansted? And why are the Japanese trying to conquer London?

REPORTING LONDON

Behind London's top stories

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Butter has no more calories than Margarine.

There's no such thing as a low calorie margarine.
25 grammes of butter contains 185 calories. 25 grammes
of margarine contains 185 calories.

So you can be calorie conscious and still enjoy the
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PARLIAMENT October 19 1981

Private sector takeover of UK oil production

The entire oil-producing business of the British National Oil Corporation is to be transferred to the private sector with the state retaining only a minority stake, Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, announced in reply to a question.

The British Gas Corporation's substantial offshore oil business is also to be transferred to the private sector, he said, but the disposal of the gas showrooms is to be postponed.

Mr Lawson said: The House will be aware that I issued a direction last week, under Section 7 of the Gas Act, instructing the British Gas Corporation to dispose of their stake in the Wyth Farm onshore oilfield. This needs to be seen in the context of the Government's overall plans for privatisation and competition in the oil and gas industries.

First, the Government proposes to introduce legislation to allow the transfer—I would hope next year—of the entire oil-producing business of the British National Oil Corporation to the private sector, with the state retaining only a minority stake.

Second, the Government will also be seeking powers to privatise the British Gas Corporation's substantial offshore oil business.

These powers will also enable the gas corporation to be required to dispose of its showrooms. As we have made clear, it is essential that safety standards are fully maintained. This will require complex safety legislation for which there is unlikely to be time during the current session of Parliament. The Government remains fully committed to breaking this monopoly as soon as practicable.

Third, the Government also intends to introduce measures to abolish the gas corporation's unique statutory rights over both the purchase and sale of gas to industry in particular.

These outdated privileges have acted as a serious disincentive to the exploration and development of gas supplies on the United

BRITISH GAS

Kingdom Continental Shelf with the result that British industry has not had all the gas it needs.

The measures to be introduced, which will include effective private access to the gas corporation's pipeline system, will for the first time introduce real competition into the market for gas.

Mr Peter Viggers (Gosport, C): The measures will be enthusiastically received in the country because state monopoly and investment are not in the best interests of consumers in a high risk industry. Can he be more specific about the amounts involved and the timing?

Mr Lawson: The amounts involved are substantial. It is no exaggeration to say that the measures I have outlined add up to what is without doubt the biggest programme of privatisation ever to come before Parliament. In addition these measures will introduce much needed and long overdue competition where it matters most. I share his view that they will be good for British industry, for the successful development of our oil and gas industries and above all for the nation.

Dr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP): Does his decision to introduce the gas corporation to the private sector mean that he is prepared to renegotiate all the participation agreements? It is to be re-opened to the whole question of UK Continental Shelf rights now that BNOC will be a minority shareholder.

On the question of the gas decision, would it not have been better to recognise that the wrong decision had been made and that instead of trying to force it through safety legislation it was the wrong decision? It will be construed that the safety standards have been introduced by industrial blackmail.

Mr Lawson: On the question of participation agreements, he has

clearly misunderstood what I was saying. I was saying that it was the oil producing business of BNOC which was to have privatisation.

BNOC with its participation agreements, the trading operations of BNOC, will remain 100 per cent state-owned and there will be no impact on the participation agreements of the kind he suggested or any other kind.

As regards gas, I am sorry to see that even though he has switched parties he is still in favour of monopoly.

Sir Charles Fletcher-Cooke (Darwen, C): Would he confirm, where Wyth Farm is concerned, that there will be no central interference or reduction in the rights of landowners and that their interests, both present and future, are fully secured?

Mr Lawson: There is no reason to assume that landowners' rights will be in any way affected by this.

Mr Merlyn Rees, Chief Opposition spokesman on energy (Leeds, South, C): This is a long way to put to the House a detailed change of policy. (Labour cheers.) This is a fundamental change and there must be a very good reason for the House to find out what the Government is really up to.

Once again the Government has shown that on occasions it is anti-public enterprise, even when the nature of the public enterprise is such that in other parts of the world it can be seen as successful under any criteria.

What legislation will be required for this? I hope that the Secretary of State is not being given a carte blanche to go ahead without parliamentary approval, in the way at least suggested in what has been said today.

In the sale of gas by the new method suggested, is he saying that a private company is going to supply gas at a cheaper rate, at a price lower than that already done by the gas corporation? We are grateful that the matter of the sale of the gas showrooms has been shelved.

Mr Lawson: He huffs and puffs in his customary way. There is every

reason to suppose that there will be more gas under this freedom: more gas developed and brought ashore. That will be for the good of British industry. At present we have a shortage of gas. It is the only fuel for which there is a shortage and that will be ended.

On the detail of the legislation, there will be ample opportunity for debate. The Queen's Speech will contain the proposals and will be debated in the normal way. When the legislation comes forward it will be fully debated in this House and in detail.

Meanwhile it is for the convenience of the House and courtesy to the House that on this first available opportunity after the summer recess I should inform it of what we intend to do.

Mr Timothy Egan (Enfield, North, C): He is to be congratulated on his bold and imaginative statement. (Labour interjections.) The release of the gas monopoly has done untold harm to the economy over a number of years. We are bringing forward legislation to ensure that he can introduce private equity into the British Gas Corporation?

Mr Lawson: The monopoly has done harm to the country, particularly in recent years. That is why I propose to change it in the way outlined. These proposals are so fundamental that they go as far as we should go. It is not my intention

to introduce legislation to have direct private equity participation in this public utility.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L): Would Wyth Farm have been developed earlier or at all if the proposals had been implemented a decade ago?

Mr Lawson: I do not know. Taking Britain's new-found North Sea oil industry as a whole, it was private enterprise that made the difference as to the best method of bringing gas ashore. We shall give them every encouragement so to do.

Mr Peter Hardy (Rother Valley, Lab): What he has said is such a departure from the Government's interest that we should have a debate on this matter now rather than wait for the Queen's Speech which will be in November.

On the gas showrooms, what action is he taking in response to those companies which have imported appliances in anticipation of the Government's decision which may have contributed to Conservative Party funds in anticipation of the decision?

Mr Lawson: His crocodile tears are not intended to be taken seriously. There will be ample opportunity for debate. It is uncharacteristic of him that he is so impatient that he cannot even wait for the Queen's Speech which now is not that far off.

Mr Egan: I welcome his statement. Can he confirm that the oil companies will be expected to build and finance their own pipelines and that the Government will not allow associated gas to lie in the ground or to be flared?

Mr Egan: I can confirm that the Government's policy on wasteful flaring of gas is unchanged. Companies will, indeed, be expected to bring gas ashore. We shall give them every encouragement so to do.

Mr Edward Rowlands, an Opposition spokesman on energy (Merthyr Tydfil, Lab): I offer Mr Egan my congratulations, but I am disappointed that he has failed abysmally for an integrated gas gathering pipeline in the North Sea.

Mr Egan: I am sure that the same pipeline he and the past Secretary of State (Mr David Howell) described as essential to the national interest.

What has happened since then except for the fact that private financiers and private investors have failed to support that national interest?

Mr Egan: At no time did the Government envisage that it would be a public utility. It was a private company with private shareholders and a private financial interest in the line. When the Government was not able to raise the money to take over a 70 per cent interest on reasonable terms then the Govern-

ment was faced with the possibility of having to finance the whole 100 per cent, which the Government felt was not realistic in the circumstances.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East, Scot Nat): When the House last met he was assuring the House that this pipeline was a progress and there would be no reason for it to fail.

Wittingly or unwittingly he has misled the House. How does he justify the loss of thousands of jobs in the steel and construction industries, and in petrochemicals, on the same day as the Government announced its inten-

Bringing N Sea gas ashore

N SEA PIPELINE

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will accrue in the short and long term will be of benefit to Scotland and the nation?

Mr Gray: With my own eyes I am sure that this should go ahead. It is a pipeline which will be a progress and there would be no reason for it to fail.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, L): If the Government has withdrawn its interest in this project what obligations are there on the companies to proceed with the ending of flaring gas, or are they to be left to their own devices?

Mr Gray: Since this Government came to office in May 1979, flaring in the North Sea has been reduced by 90 per cent. Our policy is unchanged and the companies will realise this.

In addition, when applications for production in any new fields are submitted to the Government these will not be accepted unless there is clear indication that the associated gas will be brought ashore.

Deregulation of gas prices agreed policy

The average domestic gas price is currently 10p per therm. The Government has agreed to reduce this to 8p per therm by 1983. This will be a significant saving to consumers.

Mr Edward Rowlands, an Opposition spokesman on energy (Merthyr Tydfil, Lab): He confirms it is Government policy, and not that of British Gas, to increase gas prices by 10 per cent more than the rate of inflation.

It would be a good idea for Mr Lawson to withdraw the policy statement of the previous Secretary of State and either cancel or cut the additional gas prices this Government is forcing on British Gas.

Mr Lawson: He is too busy. He is referring to an increase in domestic gas prices far below the rate of inflation. It is not needed even to break even.

What the Government and gas industry together have agreed is that there will be a gradual deregulation of prices over a period of three years. The agreed policy is not to be imposed by the Government.

Mr Albert McQuarrie (East Aberdeenshire, Lab): I am sure the constituency where this gas is to be brought ashore, I can assure the minister that considerable discussions have taken place with private oil companies with a view to having a system brought in.

When these proposals are placed before the House, I shall be sure that they are dealt with rapidly because the jobs which

increase sharply if the allowances—unchanged since 1979—are not raised.

A letter has been for a much tougher line from Mr Tait on labour law reform than was taken by his predecessor, Mr James Prior, union leaders fear he will also be considerably more hawkish as a spending minister.

With the commission awaiting a government response to its request for an increase in the allowance, union suspicion that Mr Tait will refuse it has been sharpened by a letter from him denying that the present payment is a disincentive.

Mr Tait may not announce his decision until an overall review of the YOP scheme is completed within the next few weeks.

Mr Prior had laid plans for revamping the programme so as substantially to increase the training element.

In his letter to Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, Mr Tait points out that the allowance still provides £8.25 a week more than the level of supplementary benefit available to the 16 and 17-year-olds on whom the programme is focused.

The threshold level of £4 a week over which the Government pays travelling expenses to YOP participants has not been increased since 1979. Mr Tait says, so more young people are benefiting from provision.

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HOUSE OF LORDS

Government urged to act over Land's End

There was little reason to regard a possible change of the ownership of Land's End as a threat in itself to its character or appearance, the Earl of Avon, a Lord in Waiting, said during question time.

Lord Mollay (Lab) asked the Government to take all necessary steps to prevent the sale of Land's End to non-British individuals or organisations and to consider providing financial aid to the National Trust to purchase Land's End on behalf of the British people.

The Earl of Avon: Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, will consider any proposals he may receive from the Countryside Commission or the local authorities concerned, but there is little reason to regard the possible change of ownership as a threat in itself to the character or appearance of Land's End, which has been a matter of concern for some while.

The land will remain subject to normal planning control and the local authorities, the Commission and the National Trust will continue to direct their attention towards ensuring that the better environmental management to improve unsightly features and avoid erosion of paths.

Lord Mollay: The grave concern by people all over the country is reaching consternation. Would he make a statement that rather than lose Land's End to overseas interest, the Government will be prepared to help the National Trust and the Countryside Commission financially to purchase Land's End on behalf of the British people?

The Earl of Avon: At the moment Lord Mollay is jumping the gun. I do not even know how much acreage is for sale.

We would expect this issue to be considered in the first instance by the Countryside Commission, the National Trust and Cornwall County Council. I believe there are no discussions between these bodies.

Many properties owned by people from various foreign



Lord Mollay: grave concern at sale

Lord Mollay: It is disturbing that the Government does not know precisely what is at stake and he has just admitted that. Can he not get a few back copies of The Guardian of The Times, which spell out so that the Government can be well informed and realize what a serious issue this is?

We are not talking about some joke of towing this away. Ordinary people recognise that something they regard as a part of our heritage is at stake and it is the Government's responsibility to do something about it.

The Earl of Avon: The information we have at



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How Nunn May passed uranium samples to Russia

From Peter Hennessy, Ottawa, Oct 19

Details of how Dr Alan Nunn May, the British atomic scientist, managed to pass samples of enriched uranium to Soviet intelligence in Canada in the summer of 1945, thus helping to shorten the West's monopoly of nuclear weapons, are revealed in newly declassified documents available in the Canadian National Archives.

They are contained in lengthy transcripts of evidence taken by a royal commission in Ottawa in February and May, 1946, from Mr Igor Gouzenko, a cipher clerk in the Soviet Embassy there. Mr Gouzenko defected to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in September, 1945, with a wealth of material on an extensive spy-ring operated in North America by Russian military intelligence.

The importance his Soviet controllers placed on the activity of Dr Nunn May, who operated under the code name Alec, is apparent from a message sent by Major-General Bolshakov, chief of the first intelligence directorate in Moscow, to Colonel Nicolai Zabolotni, military attaché in Ottawa, who controlled the atomic spy network in Canada.

Dr Nunn May arrived in Canada from England in January, 1945, to work in Montreal on the joint Anglo-American-Canadian project, which built the first atom bomb. As Mr Gouzenko told his interrogators: "Moscow sent a telegram and it said that it is imperative to establish contact with Alan Nunn May, who is a very valuable source. It is a very delicate business, therefore, to establish contact with him and must be done with the greatest care."

Mr Gouzenko went on to describe how specific questions were transmitted from Moscow to be put to Dr Nunn May by his Soviet contact in Canada, Lieutenant Pavel Angelov. In reply, Dr Nunn May was able to give details of the successful test of a uranium bomb in the New Mexico desert in July,

1945, together with details of its manufacture.

A month before the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan, Dr Nunn May handed Lieutenant Angelov samples of enriched uranium. A telegram from Colonel Zabolotni to General Bolshakov, encoded by Mr Gouzenko on July 9, 1945, read: "Alec handed over to us a platinum with 162 micrograms of uranium 233, in the form of acid, contained in a thin lamina."

The sample was stored in Ottawa for a few weeks, then taken to Moscow by air. Just before Mr Gouzenko defected and "blew" Dr Nunn May, General Bolshakov instructed Colonel Zabolotni to "take measures to organize the obtaining of documentary material on the atomic bomb, the technological process, drawings, calculations."

On September 8, three days after Mr Gouzenko had approached the Canadian authorities, the late Mr Peter Dwyer, an officer of MIS, the British secret intelligence service, arrived in Ottawa from Washington to interview him.

A CBS television documentary showed in Canada on Sunday night included a statement from Mr Mark McClung, an officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police concerned with the Gouzenko affair, who said that Mr Dwyer's main concern was the evidence on Dr Nunn May's activities rather than possible "moles" in British intelligence itself.

Dr Nunn May was arrested in London on March 4th, 1946. The first was when, as a minister with extended powers in his father's cabinet, he tried hard to dissociate himself from his American past by displaying an aggressive anti-Americanism.

The second was when his sudden rise in the party hierarchy caused rivalry and intrigue that ultimately led to the Centre Party's downfall and disintegration.

When the palace, the Americans, the economic vested interests, and the political

A politician to whom no Greek is indifferent

From Mario Modiano

Athens, Oct 19

Indifference is, perhaps, the only feeling that Mr Andreas Papandreu has never evoked from the Greeks, ever since he became embroiled in their politics less than 20 years ago.

He is either worshipped as the idol and the hope of the underprivileged, or Greek heartily despised as an evil, yet admittedly gifted demagogue.

Andreas, as he likes to be called by his followers, will have a chance to prove which he is after Wednesday (Tuesday is unlucky for Greeks) when he takes the reins of power with a broad popular mandate that, with some luck, should last him four years.

Those who saw and heard him make a measured and sober victory statement on television last night were impressed. He told his audience: "We shall be the government of all the Greeks."

The paradox is that the man who practically swept the polls yesterday did not know himself, by the age of 40, that he would be engulfed in the game of politics. When he did, he had behind him a brilliant academic reputation as a teacher of economics at leading American universities.

When his father, the late George Papandreu, a politician by vocation, was swept into power by a rare 53 per cent vote in 1964 the old man was eager to see the family name perpetuated in Greek politics and enticed him to join, ceding to him the safe home-ground seat of Patras.

This week, somehow, history repeated itself when George Papandreu, junior, Andreas's 29-year-old son, an economist, was elected to Parliament at the top of his father's party ticket in Patras.

Two incidents have marked his political course, deeply. The first was when, as a minister with extended powers in his father's cabinet, he tried hard to dissociate himself from his American past by displaying an aggressive anti-Americanism.

The second was when his sudden rise in the party hierarchy caused rivalry and intrigue that ultimately led to the Centre Party's downfall and disintegration.

When the palace, the Americans, the economic vested interests, and the political



Mr Papandreu with his American-born wife at their home shortly after hearing that his opponents had conceded defeat.

establishment turned against him, he became increasingly radicalized but also more popular with the masses.

When in 1967 it became clear that he and his father (in that order) would win the May elections on an anti-establishment platform, a handful of colonels put the Greek clock back and set up a dictatorship. Yesterday the majority of Greek voters disregarded the prophecies of doom and caught up with the clock 14 years late, giving him at least a chance to show his mettle.

A handsome man at 62 with sparse grey flowing hair that makes him look more and more like his father, he has enormous charm when one meets him face to face. Having also inherited his father's eloquence he is an excellent orator who manages to captivate the crowds, feel their pulse and respond.

He lives in his modest house

at Kastri, north of Athens, with his wife, a blonde Chicago woman who is a close assistant and an author of children's books. They have three sons and a daughter who has just married.

The years in exile while the Colonels ruled Greece brought Papandreu into contact with the mainstream of socialist fundamentalist thinking. When he returned to Greece in 1974 he showed disdain for the professional politicians. He did not even claim the title of his father's party but founded the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek) with new people.

Within seven years he managed to make socialism respectable. Although he aspires to shape a new brand of socialism that could serve as a model for the west, many see greater similarities with Middle Eastern Baathism than with West

European reformism. He says: "We plan to change the system not to embellish it."

President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus is flying to Athens on Friday for urgent talks with Mr Andreas Papandreu, who is to be the new Socialist Prime Minister of Greece. Mr Kyprianou reacted cautiously, fearing Mr Papandreu's election could stall efforts at improving bilateral relations.

Elsewhere, socialist leaders have expressed delight. Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, yesterday sent congratulations.

Senator Mario Soares, the Portuguese Socialist leader, described the election result as an historic victory.

Cairo admits Muslim extremists are threatening regime

From Christopher Walker, Cairo, Oct 19

Nearly two weeks after President Sadat's assassination official evidence has emerged to confirm speculation that the threat to the past and present Egyptian governments by Muslim extremists was more widespread and well-organized than previously admitted.

In a series of officially inspired articles, the Cairo newspapers today reported the arrest of 230 members of a foreign-financed Islamic group which had been planning to launch a "Khomeini-style" revolution in Egypt.

In a separate development, the Defence Ministry announced that 134 members of the armed forces had been switched to civilian posts because of their "extreme religious affiliations."

Although the connexion between the various internal investigations now under way is still vague, it appears certain that a leading Muslim terrorist arrested in a gun-battle near the Pyramids last week was a middle-ranking officer in military intelligence, although this has not been confirmed officially.

The man was named by the Interior Ministry today simply as Mr Abdul el-Zumr, with no indication that he had previously held a rank in military intelligence (believed to have been that of major).

He was said to be the ring-leader of a fanatical Islamic group which had been planning a number of regional uprisings to coincide with that in Assiut just after Mr Sadat's killing. There were more than 100 deaths in the Assiut incident.

According to *Maga*, the newspaper of the ruling National Democratic Party, Mr el-Zumr group was closely linked with Al-Takfir Wal-Hijra (Repentance and Holy Flight), the well established right-wing Muslim terror group which carried out the assassination of Mr Sadat.

The newspaper did not identify the country which had helped to finance the plot; but it disclosed that the security forces had seized a quantity of documents which showed that it

was planning to overthrow the Government and set up an Islamic revolutionary committee, complete with an Islamic militia. Members had been recruited at selected mosques throughout Egypt.

Foreign observers attach great significance to the link between the el-Zumr group (which is given no formal title) and the Sadat assassination, as could go far to explaining how the four assassins—led by Lieutenant Khaleel el-Islambouli—were able to smuggle live ammunition on to a parade where none was permitted.

For the past few days, Cairo-based intelligence experts have been checking widely circulated Egyptian rumours of a close link between fanatical Muslim groups and military intelligence—the main security organization employed by the late President to monitor the loyalty of his troops. Cairo newspapers reported today that several revolutionary groups had joined forces under the leadership of Mr el-Zumr.

The 230 arrests have led to the seizure of 15 sub-machine guns, 29 automatic rifles, 20 pistols and a large quantity of bomb-making equipment and grenades.

Investigations into the Islamic plot began some time before the attack on the late President. Three weeks before his assassination, he was warned officially by the Egyptian security services that Muslim fanatics were planning to kill him.

The influential newspaper *Al-Ahram* reported that Mr Sadat was shown videotaped evidence to support the claim before the speech he gave at the Nile delta town of Mansoura on September 26, but he refused to take any extra security precautions.

Earlier today, Lieutenant General Abo el-Ghassia, the Defence Minister, revealed that 30 Egyptian officers and 104 NCOs and men had been transferred to civilian posts because of their extreme religious associations.

IN BRIEF

Hardliner chosen as Iran premier

Ali Akbar Velayati, a hardline Islamic fundamentalist trained as a doctor in the United States, was chosen as Iran's Prime Minister by President Ali Khamenei, Tehran radio said. Iranian sources reached from London said he was expected to receive overwhelming approval from parliament. He will replace Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani who resigned unexpectedly on October 15.

Tehran newspapers, meanwhile, reported the execution of 25 people including Mr Manucher Massoudi, who was an aide of Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the ousted former president.

Policemen shot

Rome—Two plainclothes policemen of the special branch of the Italian police were killed and another hurt as they attempted to stop a car. Its occupants immediately opened fire. It is thought that the killers were terrorists but no organisation has yet claimed responsibility.

Karpov puts off game

Merano, Italy—Anatoly Karpov, the world chess champion, who leads Viktor Korchnoi the challenger, by three games to one postponed the eighth game of the series. Karpov's aides said he was tired. Competitors are allowed three time-out requests in the championship. The game will now be played on Thursday.

Mozambique visit

Lisbon—President Ramalho Eanes of Portugal is to pay an official visit to President Samora Machel of Mozambique at the end of November, the first such visit since the country's independence from Portugal less than a year ago. President Eanes will be accompanied by a large group of industrialists.

Kekkonen 'stable'

Helsinki—President Urho Kekkonen, aged 81, suffering from a recurrent respiratory inflammation at the weekend in Helsinki, but his condition remains largely stable, his office said in its regular bulletin.

Trident 2 missile may prove a better buy

From Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent, Glenageary, Oct 19

Britain should find it cheaper to buy Trident 2 nuclear missiles from the United States than the less expensive Trident 1, Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary, said here last night. This was because by buying Trident 2 he would be keeping in step with the Americans who have recently announced their own plans to start full development of the bigger, more accurate Trident 2, or D5 missile.

Mr Nott said at a press conference that the Government's decision was not a foregone conclusion. It was a question of judgement rather than arithmetic and not even a Nobel prize-winner in mathematics could necessarily work out the right answer.

Even so the extra cost of purchasing the Trident 2, which the Government says will cost £5,000m over 15 years at 1980 prices—is among the details which still have to be worked

out before Mr Nott can give any firm recommendation to the Cabinet.

It is one of the points he wants to clarify with Mr Casper Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, during the next two days, while both men are attending the meeting here of the Nuclear Planning Group (NPG).

Mr Nott is the non-paying host for the NPG, which is being held behind unprecedented security at the Glenageary Hotel.

President Reagan has acknowledged that he envisages the possibility of a limited nuclear war in Europe under certain conditions without such a conflict leading to direct confrontation between the two super-powers (AFP reports from Washington).

"I could see where you could have the exchange of tactical weapons against troops in the field without it bringing either one of the major powers to pushing the button", he said.

Bridge federation refuses to invite Terence Reese

From a Correspondent, Port Chester, New York, Oct 19

The executive committee of the World Bridge Federation (WBF) has unanimously accepted the decision of its credentials committee, declaring Mr Terence Reese to be unacceptable "as non-playing captain of the British team for the Bermuda Bowl, the official bridge world championship beginning tomorrow."

In a press release, the WBF president, Mr Jaime Ortiz Pizarro, said: "In October, 1977, new by-laws were adopted by the WBF by a vote of 68 countries for, and four against, whereby participation by players and captains in WBF championships is by invitation only; and, having received the report of the credentials com-

mittee, and having reviewed the procedures taken by that committee in the circumstances, the executive council unanimously voted to uphold the decision not to invite Mr Terence Reese as non-playing captain of the British team representing the European Bridge League at the 1981 Bermuda Bowl."

Mr Ortiz-Pizarro further stated that the decision with regard to Mr Reese was not intended to reimpose or extend a ban on Mr Reese imposed in 1965, and lifted in 1968. That was closed case.

Mr Reese had resigned from the captaincy in advance of the championships, and his place was taken by Mr Gus Calderwood.

Solidarity sees chance of accord

From Dossa Trevisan, Warsaw, Oct 19

Solidarity, the free trade union, maintaining its non-committal attitude to the Communist Party Central Committee's call to suspend strikes in order to give the country a better chance to weather the economic shortages this winter.

The union's first reaction to the election of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, to the leadership of the party suggests that it now sees a better chance of coming to an agreement with the Government.

General Jaruzelski enjoys the confidence of Mr Lech Walesa, the union leader.

Meanwhile, negotiations with the Government are proceeding. At the end of the first round, modest progress was reported after the two sides agreed on a four-week freeze of retail prices, and the setting up of a working group to consider proposals on a mutually acceptable basis for a mixed commission to deal with the short-term aspects of the crisis.

In his speech yesterday, General Jaruzelski appeared to

find encouragement in the progress made so far in the negotiations. He said that the Government wished to "broaden the platform of agreements" in a way that would include other unions and social forces in the search for ways to overcome the crisis.

The Central Committee meeting called for a suspension of the right to strike, however, is bound to encounter difficulties specially at the time when even Solidarity cannot control wildcat strikes set off by food shortages.

In his speech the general was at pains to emphasize that the party "never sought confrontation."

The most urgent matter now facing the party was to remove "the inner barriers", restore faith in its strength and in its programme.

General Jaruzelski clearly stands a better chance than his predecessor in achieving this. Today, the general saw the ambassadors of the Warsaw Pact countries and then

presided over a meeting of the Council of Defence which, according to PAP, the official news agency, was convened in response to the Central Committee resolution.

The resolution emphasized that Poland's existence and security were now "in danger" and in this context the Central Committee deemed it necessary to state that in such a situation if the need arose "the supreme authorities of Poland should use their constitutional right to defend the most vital interests of the nation and of the state."

This appears to allude to the possibility of a recourse to the declaration of a state of emergency.

The praesidium of Solidarity whose leadership was attacked in the Central Committee resolution for "embarking on a path which runs counter to national interests", reacted with restraint and moderation.

Its attitude suggests a qualified acceptance of the party's demand to abstain from serious action, its definitive reply will be made known Thursday.

Sudan says Libyan invasion is imminent

From Nicholas Worrall

Khartoum, Oct 19

Colonel Nasri Abdul Majid un-Khalil, the Sudanese Vice-President and Defence Minister, said today that an invasion of his country by Libyan forces was imminent.

Speaking at a press conference here he said that as long as Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, had "ambitions and dreams to fulfill" peace would be at risk in Sudan.

He added: "As long as Libyan troops are on our borders and as long as Gaddafi is collecting our passports and buying mercenaries and concentrating them on our border, with sophisticated weapons based in Chad, I think there is an imminent danger."

He described the Libyan leader as "unbalanced and as a man who is challenging the world", who had extended terrorism and sabotage to Uganda, Ireland, the Philippines, Western Sahara, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Asked to estimate the present Libyan strength in Chad, where Colonel Gaddafi intervened last December, Colonel Khalil said Sudanese intelligence "had located the presence" of Russian-made tanks, armoured personnel carriers, rocket artillery, mortars, helicopters, "anti-aircraft weapons and an entire mechanised battalion."

Since September 10, the Libyans have been launching daily air attacks on four Sudanese border villages and on the town of El Geneina, causing casualties.

In Khartoum and other cities, he said, Libya had engineered a campaign of sabotage and economic disruption, helping to infiltrate, disorient, Sudanese seeking to overthrow the regime of President Nimeiry.

Colonel Khalil claimed that one prominent Sudanese involved in this destabilization campaign was Sherif el-Hindi, a former leader of the Sudanese National Front, a right-wing Islamic grouping now virtually defunct in Sudan, who is living in exile in Tripoli.

During the past three weeks more than 12,000 people have been rounded up by security forces in Khartoum and questioned about possible involvement in Libya's present subversion campaign.

A note of disbelief was introduced into the news conference, when Colonel Khalil denied categorically that Mr Hissene Habre, Chad's dissident leader, was being assisted by Sudan in his guerrilla campaign against the Libyan-backed Goukouni regime. This alleged involvement has been widely reported for months.

He also denied that Libyan air attacks on the Sudanese border village of Kolbus were motivated by the belief that the village was being used as a hide-out by the Habre forces.

Yet when I visited the border area last week, I was told by military sources that Kolbus was a Habre guerrilla base and also that the Chadian guerrillas regularly visited the border town of El Geneina 80 miles south where the Sudanese Western Military Command was located.

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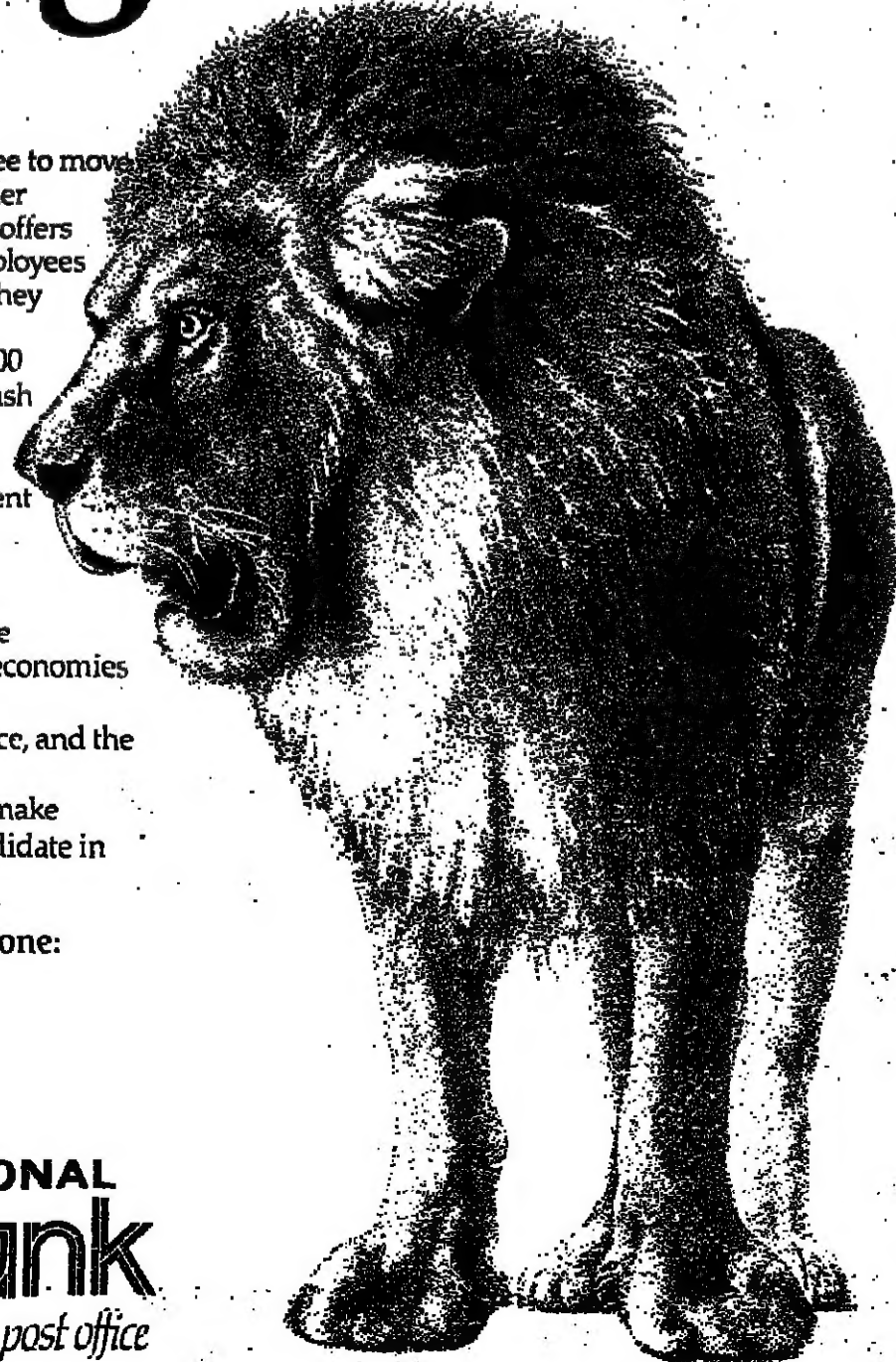
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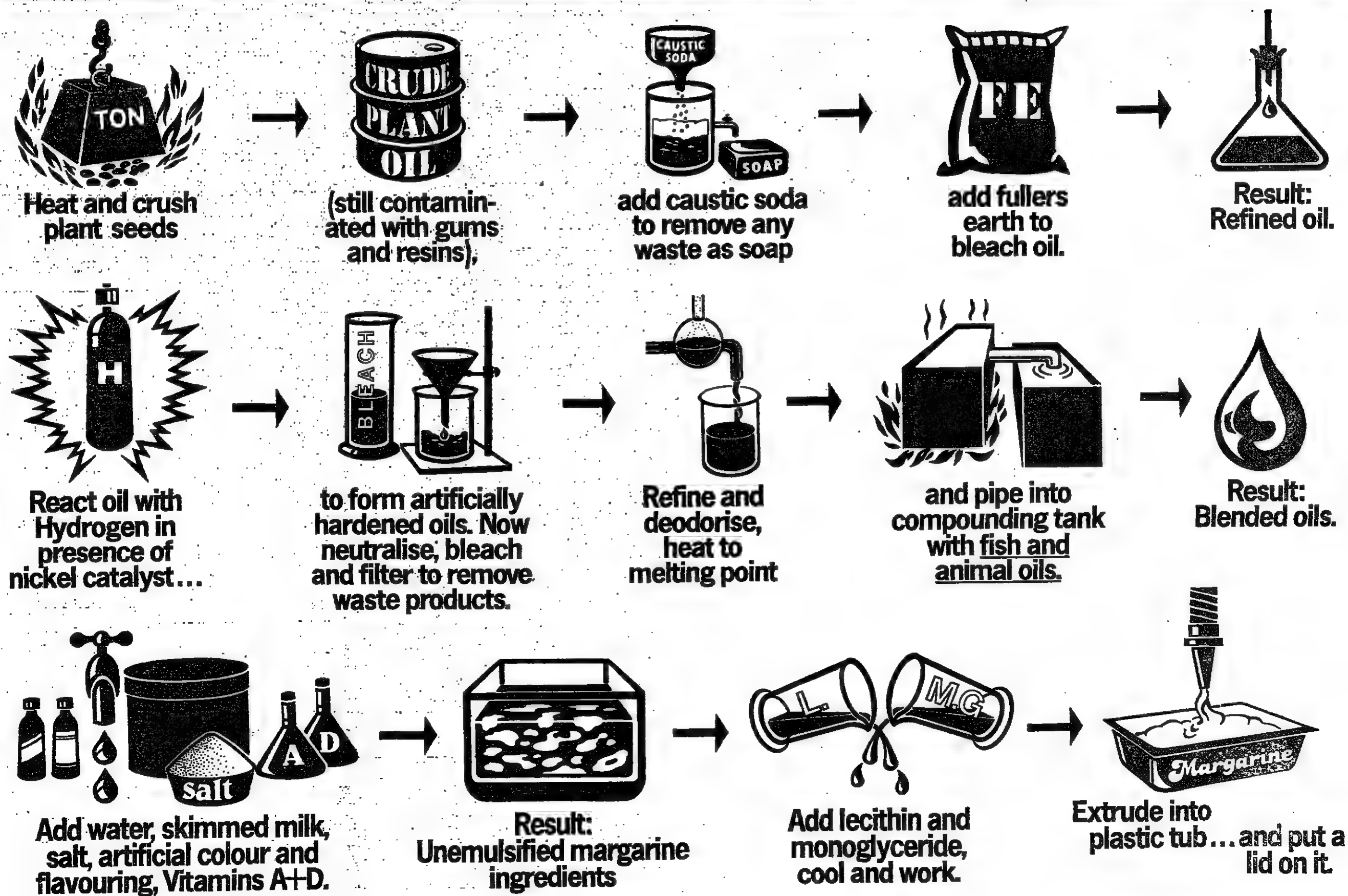
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Schmidt's heavy work load worries Germans

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Oct 19

With Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, back in his office after the peace operation, West Germans were wondering how long he can sustain the crushing workload that he sets himself.

This week will be relatively quiet, a transition period between hospital and normality. He had cancelled his trip to the North-South conference at Cancun, Mexico, and no important engagements have been fixed in his place.

But if all continues to go well, next week he is expected to be back to his normal routine which starts with breakfast and the newspapers about 8 am and rarely ends before midnight.

It is a gruelling round of meetings, decisions, speeches, visitors, travel, interviews, mountains of files to study and information to absorb. He insists on being fully versed in the complex problems that affect economic, defence and foreign policy, especially as he is now being compelled to fight for his policies against growing criticism in his own party.

"It will be extremely difficult to get him to cut down his work," an aide says. "It is a question of his mentality. He has this drive to be fully informed about everything to make decisions thoroughly. It is a drive for perfection. His staff doubt that he would be able to delegate work and decisions to others. Working less for him would be just as much a strain as working more. It is his age — 62 — he is not going to change."

What drives Herr Schmidt is ambition. Not so much for fame and honour as — in his own words — the desire "to do the job better than the next man, better than my predecessor and my successor."

The five days which preceded the chancellor's illness give an idea of the killing pace at which he lives. On the Wednesday he headed a Cabinet meeting, then flew to Bordeaux for a day and a half of intensive talks with President Mitterrand; on Friday morning he gave a major speech in a Bundestag debate on the next day's peace demonstration; the same afternoon he was addressing factory workers in West Berlin.

On Saturday, he was up at 3.30 am to fly to Cairo and follow President Sadat's funeral procession in the blazing sun. And then back to cold, rainy Hamburg and,

despite a slight fever and weak pulse, a private dinner engagement he felt he could not avoid.

In between engagements and during his flights, the usual consultations, files and decisions, and on the Saturday the worry about the peace demonstration which he saw as an attack on his policies. Was there going to be violence? What did his own party members think? Then came the blackouts and the operation.

The day after the surgery he was being briefed on the political situation by Herr Manfred Lahnstein, the head of the chancellery and his chief aide, and reading documents. The day after, he was receiving visitors, telephoning, sending letters, making decisions and saying that he looked forward to getting back to his office.

He ignored the advice of Herr Willy Brandt, the former Chancellor and party chairman, who has had heart trouble himself, to rest a few days longer than absolutely necessary. To Herr Schmidt, a Protestant and a Hamburger, it is natural that he consume himself in the service of his country.

Although he sometimes grumbles in private that he would like to give it all up, his deep-rooted sense of duty makes it most unlikely that he would resign unless he became physically incapable of carrying on. His illness has certainly shocked his fractious Social Democrats into realising how much they need him.

His popularity had been dwindling both in the party and elsewhere but it seems certain that it has now risen again on the nation-wide wave of sympathy.

Although the party has refused to discuss a possible successor it has become evident that it will be difficult, maybe impossible, to find anyone who can keep the coalition together and preserve what remains of the party's credibility as Herr Schmidt has done.

Among the presents sent to him in hospital was a weather-proof seaman's sweater (he loves sailing) from his parliamentary party with the comment that there was rough weather ahead for the man who successfully steered West Germany through stormy times. "We continue to need you," the message pinned to the present read.

NOBEL PRIZES AWARDED TO FIVE SCIENTISTS



NICOLAAS BLOEMBERGEN



KAI SIEGBAHN



ARTHUR SCHAWLOW



KENICHI FUKUI



ROALD HOFFMAN

Stockholm, Oct 19 — The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences today awarded the 1981 Nobel prizes for Physics and Chemistry (David Brown writes). Two Americans and a Swede shared the physics award for their work in spectroscopy used to study the properties of molecules, atoms and electrons. The chemistry prize went to a Japanese professor at Kyoto University and a Polish-born American professor from Cornell University for analysis of catalysts and increasing the understanding of chemical reactions.

Professor Kai Siegbahn, of Uppsala University, Sweden will receive half

the £100,000 prize for physics for his contribution to the development of high resolution electron spectroscopy. The academy commended the research of Professor Siegbahn and his team on the electron energies binding different elements in the late 1950s.

The rest is shared by Professor Nicolaas Bloembergen, aged 61, a Dutch-born American applied physicist at Harvard University and Professor Arthur Schawlow, aged 60, of Stanford University. They have been rewarded for pioneering work on the laser "a next to ideal instrument of spectroscopy. The

wholly decisive contribution in the realization of the laser was made in 1958 by Professor Schawlow, along with one of the 1964 Nobel Laureates, Professor Charles Townes, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor Schawlow's further work on non-linear spectroscopy had enabled "extremely high precision" in the study of substances. His co-winner, Professor Bloembergen, "drastically extended the range of wave lengths accessible to laser spectroscopy" by generating laser light outside the visible range in both the infra-red and ultra-violet direction.

The £100,000 chemistry prize is to be shared by professor Kenichi Fukui, aged 63 and Professor Roald Hoffman, aged 44, for their theories, developed independently, on chemical reactions and the behaviour of atoms. Professor Fukui developed his earlier "frontier orbital" theories into a "highly powerful tool" for understanding molecular reaction. Professor Hoffman continued his earlier work with the 1965 Nobel laureate, Professor Robert Woodward, to develop the "theory of conservation of orbital symmetry in chemical reaction."

Tunis takes cautious steps to democracy

From Geoffrey Morrison, Tunis, Oct 19

Mr Muhammad Mzali, the Tunisian Prime Minister, yesterday officially opened the campaign for the first multi-party elections to be held here in a generation.

Political observers are almost unanimous in predicting a comfortable win for the National Front, an alliance between the ruling Destourian Socialist Party and the General Union of Tunisian workers.

Voters go to the poll on November 1 to elect the 136 members of the Chamber of Deputies and will have a choice between candidates from four political movements as well as independents.

President Habib Bourguiba's party has enjoyed a monopoly of political power since shortly after independence from France in 1956, and his supporters rose in spontaneous applause when he announced his decision to a special party congress in April.

His own position is not in question as he is President for life, but most of Tunisia's six million population will see the coming contest as a cautious but welcome first step towards democracy.

The ruling party has several

times been split by factions and several leading personalities in the new political movements are former party members.

Opposition candidates at the election will come from the Tunisian Communist Party, led by Mr Muhammad Harmel; the Movement of Democratic Socialists, led by Mr Ahmed Mestiri, a former Defence Minister; and a breakaway group from the Movement of Popular Unity (MUP), known as MUP 2.

The Movement of Popular Unity was founded in Europe by Mr Ahmed Ben Salah, a powerful minister in the 1960s, whose attempts to collectivise agriculture led to rural unrest and his own political disgrace. He escaped from prison in Tunisia in 1973, while serving a 10 year sentence, and fled to Europe, where he remains politically active.

One of the most potentially powerful forces in Tunisia will not be represented in the elections — the Islamic fundamentalists. Three months ago more than 60 leading fundamentalists were arrested, most of them being jailed, on charges ranging from insulting the President to spreading false information.

The Prime Minister's statement came as the 10 provincial premiers gathered in Montreal to re-examine their position on Mr Trudeau's contentious plan to bring home the constitution, embodied in the British North America Act of 1981, with an amending formula and rights charter added.

Only two premiers, Mr William Davies, of Ontario, and Mr Richard Hatfield, of New Brunswick, support the federal package.

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled last month that while legal, a unilateral federal move to patriate the constitution would be unconstitutional because it would violate well-established conventions calling for prior agreement with the provinces on reform measures.

Mr Trudeau has offered to meet the premiers next Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday to try to resolve their objections, which concern both the bill of rights and the amending formula.

He may be hoping to split the front of opposing premiers by offering concessions which some might accept. That would give much needed, additional credibility to his package before the final two-day debate on it in the Canadian House of Commons, the debate in the Senate, and the subsequent proceedings in the British Parliament.

Whether the Prime Minister and the premiers would be able to agree on the date of a meeting remained in question today. Indications were that Mr Trudeau wanted to move much more swiftly than most of the opposition premiers are willing to consider.

Trudeau's warning to premiers

From John Best, Ottawa, Oct 19

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, warned today that he was ready to send his constitutional reform package to Britain at the end of this month if there was no federal-provincial agreement on the issue.

However, in a television interview, the Prime Minister stopped just short of committing himself to a month-end deadline. Asked if Britain would be requested at the end of October to give Canada final control over the Canadian constitution, with or without provincial concurrence, Mr Trudeau replied: "It is fair to say that."

Then he said, more cautiously: "If there is obviously no agreement or possibility of an agreement we will have to do the legal thing and give Canadians what they want, a charter (of fundamental rights) in the Canadian constitution."

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Son Sann's leadership aims

Hope in jungle for Cambodia's salvation

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, Oct 19

Now that the jungle trucks are drying out at the end of the wet season in western Cambodia, Mr Son Sann, prime-minister designate of the coalition government, which is yet to be formed, can visit his people by motor cycle.

There are no roads for cars in the enclaves where Mr Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) has its strongholds near the Thai border. Moreover, the Front has scarcely enough money for food, and medicine, let alone luxuries and a few motor cycles are its only powered vehicles.

Mr Sann, who was prime minister before the communists took power, is regarded by some as the only national figure fit to lead a free and neutral Cambodia.

The resistance groups, including the communist Khmer Rouge, recently signed him as prime minister of a coalition government. He and his advisers are not confident, however, that fundamental differences will be overcome for the groups to unite under his leadership.

When the meeting of the groups in Bangkok next week will be crucial, because Mr Sann has indicated that, unless the Khmer Rouge then agree to relinquish much of their power to him, he will withdraw from the united front and go his own way. The third group is that of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, former head of state.

Mr Sann says he has perhaps conceded too much already to the Communists. But it is his style to refer all his political intentions to his supporters, he is now checking their views on his motor cycle trips.

On a recent ride an old man killed Mr Sann's brother, a doctor. Mr Sann surmised that he was dead, but knew no more.

The brother, it seems, had saved the life of a Khmer man bleeding to death after falling on a bamboo stake. He had kept his qualifications and identity a secret. When Khmer Rouge cadres came for him two days later, he asked "What did I do wrong?" They stabbed him to death, the old man said.

Mr Sann came out of comfortable retirement in France, where he fled in 1974 from the war in Cambodia. When the Khmer Rouge's mass murders became known, Cambodian refugees entreated him for six months before he agreed to lead a rescue operation.

He had hesitated because he felt too old to do much and

was too sickened by what had happened to his people. He told the refugees that old mistakes must not be repeated. "We must be clean and open in all we do," he said, referring to corruption, which, he felt, had been largely responsible for their national tragedy.

The Front began with Mr Sann and 14 other Cambodians in Paris. Its object was to rescue Khmer culture and people from the Khmer Rouge. The 15 soon became hundreds as refugees gave up new lives elsewhere to join the Front. Mr Sann then moved to the Cambodian jungle.

General Dien Del, the Front's military commander, was working in a New York supermarket when he got the call. His wife stayed behind with their two children. He now has almost 10,000 well-armed guerrillas under his command.

Dr Gaffar Bang Meth, aged 37, is one of the top political figures in the Front. Last year he left his American wife and three sons in Michigan, where he had an academic post, and returned to a perilous existence in Cambodia.

Mr Bonn Say, aged 34, gave up a good accountancy job on Paris to become the Front's treasurer. His office is a leaky hut but his "books" are children's exercise books.

The Front claims to have more than 100,000 civilians under its control and, in addition to its army of nearly 10,000 and another 10,000 partisans harassing the Vietnamese occupying force. The source of their arms and supplies and the location of their supply lines have never been officially disclosed.

The first funds were raised in Paris by a troupe of classical dancers. They performed in a disused hall in a cattle market in the suburbs.

Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia caused the break-up of the troupe and underlined the divisions among the Khmers. Mr Sann's people condemned Prince Sihanouk for speaking on behalf of the Khmer Rouge regime at the United Nations. As many in the troupe were his relatives, they said they could not dance again with the Son Sann supporters.

200 DIE IN STORM

Beirut — A storm in the Gulf near the Horn of Straits sank about 35 fishing boats and claims an estimated 200 lives, Tehran radio said.

EEC farm ministers only agree to differ

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Oct 19

Agriculture ministers of the European Community meeting here today took a careful look at proposals for a revision of the common agricultural policy (CAP) and gave a fair impression of people unable to see the wood for the trees.

The debate centred on details rather than principles and now seems in danger of getting bogged down without any hope of rapid progress.

The CAP proposals are contained in the "mandate" paper prepared by the European Commission, which suggests ways of overhauling Europe's finances in the wake of Britain's well-known budgetary contribution problems.

The British Government has made agreement on the proposals during its current six months presidency of the EEC a main target. The ministers split into two camps in making their observations today.

There were those, such as West Germany, which considered reform of the CAP was too important for mere agriculture ministers and that it should more properly be agreed in outline by the European summit meeting in London next month.

The other camp, including France, was all for talking about the details of the necessary reforms, a tactic viewed by some as perhaps filibuster to slow or stop any changes.

The mandate paper was originally produced to sort out problems caused by last year's short-term compromise on British contributions, but the only country to make that link in so many words was Denmark.

Ireland, however, which broadly sees any reform of the CAP as a means of improving the income of its farmers, made it clear it would oppose any changes aimed at saving money which would end up in Britain's pocket.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, British Minister of State for Agriculture, said the Government accepted the importance of the CAP as the cornerstone of the Community.

He went on to attack it for creating surpluses which, when sold at heavily subsidised prices, particularly in the Soviet Union, seriously damaged the acceptability of the CAP and brought the Community into disrepute.

Agricultural spending over the coming years should grow less rapidly than the EEC's own resources. He made a plea for the European summit to lay down a clear guideline on this, which it would be the responsibility of the council and the commission to implement.

BRITAIN EXPLAINS ABSENCE

The fact that no British minister attended the funeral of Moshe Dayan in Israel on Sunday was because of "practical difficulties", the Foreign Office said yesterday, and no disrespect was intended.

The minister who would have gone, Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, was in the United States, and it was not feasible for Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, to attend.

Messages of sympathy were sent by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary to Mrs. Dayan and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister. Mr Dayan was highly respected and admired in London, the Foreign Office emphasized.

Mr Patrick Moberly, the British Ambassador was on tour, and could not be contacted, so the Government was represented by the consul-general of the embassy.

Leading article, page 15



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Justices' discretion on trials

Regina v Sandwich Justices, Ex parte Berry

Where a defendant was charged with several different sets of charges, each relating to a particular day, it was essentially a matter for the discretion of the justices whether the same bench should proceed to try all the charges or whether each set of charges should be tried by a differently constituted bench.

The Divisional Court refused an application by Mr John Berry for an order of certiorari to quash the determinations of justices for the Petty Sessions Division of Dover Magistrates' Court, whereby they convicted him of eight offences under the Road Traffic Act 1972. The grounds of the application were that the justices had

wrongly refused to order that each set of charges should be tried by a separate bench, that the court had proceeded to try the defendant on six separate sets of charges over three consecutive days notwithstanding the defendant's request that each set should be tried by a separate bench and that the determinations were contrary to natural justice.

LORD JUSTICE DONALDSON, sitting with Mr Justice Skinner said on October 19 that the applicant had attracted the attention of the police in the context of his driving on six different occasions from August to October 1980. There were six sets of charges each relating to one particular day. He had successfully applied for separate trials and then went on to make an

application for each set of charges to be tried by a fresh bench of justices. After considering the advice of their clerk who drew their attention to R v Bennett (The Times, March 20, 1980), the justices refused that application and proceeded to hear the 16 charges serially. They found the defendant guilty of 8.

No actual bias was suggested but the defendant relied on apparent bias. However, the evidence showed that the justices had applied their minds judicially and it was essentially a matter for their discretion. There may be cases in which there would be real problems in the justices' approach, the material in a proper and impartial manner and in such cases they should refuse to try the second or subsequent charges.

Home Office v Robinson and Another

A prison officer cannot complain to an industrial tribunal that he has been unfairly dismissed even if the conduct leading to his dismissal took place while he was off duty and outside the prison.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson) said on October 19 that Mr A. C. Elphinstone and Mr M. L. Clement-Jones, allowed an appeal by the Home Office from a decision of a London industrial tribunal last April that the

applicant Mr James Robinson, was entitled to pursue his claim of unfair dismissal.

MR JUSTICE BROWNE-WILKINSON said on October 19 that under section 146 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, those in the police service were prevented from bringing complaints of unfair dismissal. Section 146 (3) provided that "police service" meant service in a capacity by virtue of which a person had the powers or privileges of a constable. Section 8

of the Prison Act 1952 provided that "every prison officer while acting as such shall have all the powers, authority, protection and privileges of a constable."

The industrial tribunal considered that because the applicant was dismissed for conduct while he was off duty, he was not acting as a constable. But the applicant was employed in a capacity by virtue of which he had the powers and privileges of a constable. The appeal would be allowed.

No material irregularity over plea

Regina v Emmanuel

When a trial judge who was told by counsel that the prosecution was prepared to accept a plea of not guilty to a serious charge but guilty to a lesser offence had approved that course of action, and the applicant had so pleaded, there was not a material irregularity in the course of the trial if the judge, on subsequently hearing of the background to the charges, ordered that he would not accept the plea and that the trial of both offences should continue. Mr Justice May said in the Court of Appeal (sitting with Lord Justice Goff and Mr Justice Hoggins) on October 16.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the case of R v Llewellyn (1978) 67 Cr App R 149 to which they had been referred could be distinguished. There the defendant could have rightly concluded that the judge had formed an adverse impression of him before the trial and began and that he would therefore expect a fair trial. In the present case, the fact that the accused had understood for a period of 26 minutes that he had pleaded a plea of not guilty did not amount to a material irregularity and the appeal against conviction should be dismissed.

The Paris Shows by Suzy Menkes. Photographs by Harry Kerr

It's a cinch, the waist is back



We needed Federico Fellini to do justice to this season's Paris shows. Could anyone but the Italian director of the grotesque, the surreal and the absurd have envisaged fashion inside a plastic tent at the Children's Zoo in the Bois. The world's Press gawped at by fledgling Parisians and a notice warning us that goats might chew up the money in our wallets?

No such advice had been given to Claude Montana, whose astounding head dresses alone (fuchsia pink waist-length wigs and lacquered straw centurion helmets) must have swallowed up a wad of thousand franc notes.

There had been much talk at these first collections under a socialist regime of a New Moon in Paris, of a sense of the commercial rather than the dramatic. But Montana's show was pure theatre.

Between two tottering Roman columns came a series of tableaux: soldiers in natty Napoleonic uniforms and red-white-and-blue sashes; a group of all-black garments, shrouded in nun's wimples and decorated with black crosses and rosaries, gave a whole new meaning to the words Jet Set.

Underneath the extravaganzas was a definite line that started from a defined waist, that tashed soft pants or a long linen gauze skirt. The most immediately wearable clothes were superb sueded tunics, in brilliant colours like violet, tomato red and gold, and his sports wear look: cotton interlock track-suits and slightly wrinkled swim suits (a new beach image shown also by Ungaro and Castelbajac). The ultimate throw away chic was Montana's American baseball shirts, complete with team motifs but made in shimmering crepe de chine.

Paris has rediscovered the waist. Even Kenzo, whose drop waist line of a year ago has been widely copied, now belts his newest garments at the waist, especially his telephone-cosy tiers of cotton chintz that make mini, knee-length and mid-calf skirts.

Karl Lagerfeld for Chloé made the strongest Paris statement that waists are in and French bread out. His glutton's corset was made in shiny plastic and encircled almost every garment in his show. The defined waist girded from rib cage to hips looked good with mid-calf skirt lengths in striped silk or with stiffer white minis. It was also shown with Lagerfeld's other skirt length, a

very full divided skirt cut off two inches above the knees.

At Chloé (and at Ungaro) black and white was an important colour scheme often achieved with Prince of Wales checked linen or with striped silk. Ungaro showed a lot of really short smock dresses which I thought looked very odd, but came in his ravishingly pretty prints. Ungaro's strong

colours were a welcome contrast to the harsh greens and yellows of Paris's favourite acid drop shades. The simple spiky shapes, neatly detailed and well-made, are a feature of all the more commercial shows. Jean Charles de Castelbajac may have handpainted motifs from the Caves of Lascaux on to linen made winged-back. Larus suits and drowned his audience by pouring his new perfume down the fire sprinklers, but he also makes splendid sports wear, especially his sharp cut culottes, his brightly coloured swim suits and his parkas. The crown prince of the plastic mac still produces rainwear to lighten the darkest cloud (including black space age linings to rainjackets).

No one could ever accuse Thierry Mugler of being commercial. His extraordinary collection veered between Al Jolson's Hollywood belboy baggy trousers and Judy Garland's Wizard of Oz dresses in acid chiffons. His inspiration seems to be the black singer Grace Jones. She might like to wear some of his midriff garments, such as the black laced carnival dresses with multi-coloured petticoats.

The centrepiece of Mugler's show was a group of soft-porn chambermaids in white frilly aprons, lime green organza bloomers, and a great deal of bare bosom. I prefer to think that he was making some subtle socialist point about the exploitation of the lower orders. Rather than making monkeys of us all.

Sonia Rykiel moulds her clothes to the body. Her plain black sweaters, softened this season with a half gilet at the front, made the sexiest show in Paris, especially when the models came out wearing cashmere with black lace. Apart from flashes of rose pink or sunflower yellow, Sonia Rykiel's palette is sombre — black, camel and cream — although she produced some stunning suits in Prince of Wales and dogtooth check. Rykiel's clothes are wearable, but witty, with wicked black lace inserts or bold slogan belts breaking up the classic line.



Kenzo: above left, Romantic blouse and short tiered skirt in square dance checked taffeta.

Karl Lagerfeld: above centre, for Chloé: the corset belt on a fluid silk dress with wide sleeves and two-tier scissored hemline.

Claude Montana: above, French Revolution jacket with big sleeves and striped trousers. The tricorn hat completes the theatrical look.

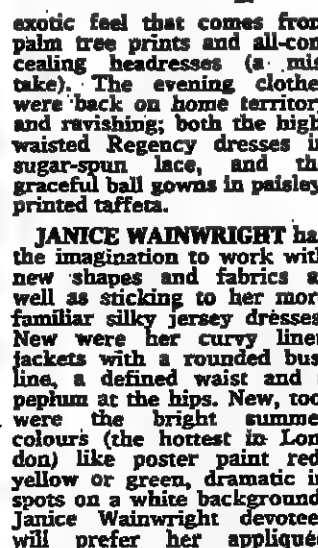
Thierry Mugler: far left, The sexy waitress look in net and organza.

Ungaro: left, The very short chemise dress in bold print.

Castelbajac: right, Cape-sleeved jacket and loose linen breeches worn with a waist-clinching belt with double pouch.



London round up



There is now a London designer look, quite distinct from French or Italian style. It is based on a long full skirt, falling well below the knee and made in crisp cotton, occasionally linen, or silk. With the skirt, goes a waisted jacket with big sleeves and a nipped-in waist, giving the silhouette a gentle Edwardian feel. The other strong London designer story for next spring is the grand skirt, used both for overblouses to the big skirt or a dress shape on its own, with short shorts as holiday wear — as in Benny Ong's clean-cut collection. Striped shirting fabric is the leading pattern of the new season, with shirting in the leading pattern of the new season, with broken stripes and spots as an alternative.



JEAN MUIR's cut is delicate and intricate. The simplest swinging coat in grey flannel or baby blue suede is cut with a dozen godets in the skirt — a marvel of tailoring that was also shown as a bravura blast of scarlet, red and black suede. Jean Muir's silhouette is still neat, but is now much less severe, both because of the new Edwardian shape and by the addition of controlled fulls. Her colours were either pale and delicious — aquamar-

ine, (especially in moiré silk), peach and powder blue — or a strong combination of scarlet on cobalt blue, which made an impressive squiggle print.

NIGEL PRESTON of Maxfield Parrish had some superb ideas in suede and leather, especially pin-striped suede and big skirts in the softest chambray, but the collection needed editing and coordinating (and an iron).

CAROLINE CHARLES, emboldened by her success in dressing the Princess of Wales, gave her first extravaganza show. She makes clothes in the prettiest and most flattering of colours: sky blue, tobacco, cappuccino and the whole spectrum of the spice rack from terracotta to tan. Caroline Charles also used the two important London shapes — the Edwardian jacket and the big skirt — especially effective in herringbone patterned silk, or when stripes were used diagonally for blouse and skirt basque, vertically for jacket and skirt. The holiday clothes had the

exotic feel that comes from palm tree prints and all-coating headresses (a mis-take). The evening clothes were back on home territory and ravishing; both the high-waisted Regency dresses in sugar-spun lace, and the graceful ball gowns in pale-silk printed taffeta.

JANICE WAINWRIGHT has the imagination to work with new shapes and fabrics as well as sticking to her more familiar silky jersey dresses. New were her curvy linen jackets with a rounded bust line, a defined waist and a peplum at the hips. New, too, were the bright summer colours (the hottest in London) like poster paint red, yellow or green, dramatic in spots on white background and Janice Wainwright devotes will prefer her applied crepes or her silky jersey dresses, now decorated with fagoting for a lacey effect.

JASPER CONRAN was not as good as he ought to be considering his incisive cut and elegant conception. Bold deckchair stripes, cheery scarlet and white and sailor collars on drop-waist dresses gave the right kind of sailor look (Deauville not Dover). With little girl dresses in slub silk you can get away with cutting classes for all those London designers whose ball gowns cannot keep bosom and bodice older.

BRUCE OLDFIELD needs no instruction because his evening dresses are well moulded to the body and, at their best, (like a green Regency striped dress with winged shoulders flowing from a bare back) sensational.

When I returned to radio after many years in television I had to make several mental adjustments: to remember to refer to the audience as "listeners" instead of "viewers", to count them in hundreds of thousands instead of millions and to try to identify those listeners who choose to listen to Radio 4 in preference to the offerings of Radios 1, 2 and 3, BBC local radio, independent local radio, Radios Scotland, Wales and Ulster.

My desire to identify the audience was intensified by discussions in a recent working party set up to consider the future of BBC radio, where I found a misleading assumption that Radio 4's listeners were mostly elderly, middle-class and living in the Home Counties. The suggestion that these listeners were fast dying out, combined with reception difficulties after the wavelength changes, made me wonder whether I had moved back to radio only in time to watch over a wake for what had once been the rock of the old Home Service.

Over the past two years I have come to discover more about the listeners, or, rather, the viewer-listeners. In Britain, few people are exclusively viewers or listeners only; most people nowadays listen to radio between 7 am and 5 pm and in the evening watch television. Peak listening time for all radio is early morning and, on some services, there are smaller peaks at lunch-time, drive-home time and late evening. Between the peaks Radio 4's audience consists of people who are not at work or out shopping; they are at home or, sometimes, in their cars, and usually they are alone.

Popular music networks can be used as a background during working hours or as an accompaniment to family life by a mainly speech channel does not lend itself to background listening. One factor Radio 4 listeners have in common is the ability to concentrate on the spoken word. In a less visually orientated age, when conversation and story-telling were experiences shared by people of all ages and social backgrounds, the capacity to listen with attention was taken for granted.

Throughout the twentieth century we have become more dependent on all kinds of visual aids. Children now grow up with television as their primary source of information, apart from the immediate family. Can serious speech radio survive in the face of the increasing choices provided by television and the radio services which some describe as "pop and prattle"?

My growing knowledge of the Radio 4 audience suggests that a mixed output of thought-provoking programmes on national news, work is especially needed at a time of more choice and fragmentation of radio and television. Just as shops opening in the market square compete strongly for the available customers, so will the new local radio stations, the fourth television channel, satellite, cable and video systems compete. But the shop that continues to sell hand-crafted goods or high quality food still satisfies customers of all ages who prefer them to mass-produced imitations.

Despite growing competition for listeners (13½ million people — 27 per cent of the population — tune to Radio 4 in the course of a month. Some may listen for only a few minutes to a news bulletin, others for a whole hour, or even for a whole day, usually tuned to rock and pop music, form a high proportion of the audience for light entertainment shows such as *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Week Ending*, *Injury Time* and some drama, notably *The Lord of the Rings*.

It is clear from the amount, variety and quality of the correspondence and telephone calls provoked by Radio 4 programmes that listening by oneself can be a rewarding experience. Listeners' letters show that those whose thoughts and feelings can respond to the spoken word sometimes achieve an understanding of ideas or an encounter with another human being which remains in the mind when more spectacular treatments on television are forgotten.

Some of the most appreciated programmes on Radio 4 cover the same areas as television, including natural history, religion, arts features, science documentaries and current affairs discussions. Does the televising of *Gardeners' World* mean that *Gardeners' Question Time* on Radio 4 is no longer needed? Does television's *Question Time* pre-empt *Any Questions*?

The pictures add a dimension but the speed and economy of radio and its ability to generate and concentrate on ideas, without distracting visual paraphernalia, can provide an intensity of experience which, because it demands more imagination from the listener, is different from the more passive act of viewing.

Apart from record requests

Why radio can still hold its own

by Monica Sims

Controller, Radio 4

and fan mail to disc jockeys, 45 per cent of unsolicited correspondence to BBC radio refers to radio 4. Some letters contain accusations of bias in news reports or current affairs sequences, often from listeners from opposite political extremes about the same item, illustrating how the listener's own views and experience colour the individual reaction. Others make expert comment or corrections and personal conversations which are often featured in regular programmes like *Wildlife* or *Checkpoint*.

Radio 4's only request programme, *Poetry Please*, indicates a wide range of literary tastes and *Gardeners' Question Time* can provoke as many as 5,000 letters in a week when controversial topics such as weedicides are discussed. Both *Any Questions* and *Gardeners' Question Time* receive so many invitations to visit listeners in their own towns that the programmes could be fully booked around the country for the next 50 years.

Some of the more indignant letters from listeners are about pronunciation, grammar and sometimes "bad" language in drama. Most reflect a belief that the BBC should set standards of "correct" usage and that Radio 4 in particular should be a yardstick of quality. Writers who use colloquial expressions to reflect contemporary situations perceive such a reaction as the audience's unwillingness to listen to the portrayal of life as it really is and there is genuine disagreement between older and younger broadcasters about what is acceptable at certain times of the day.

"The pictures are better on radio" may be an old cliché but it figures particularly in letters from the half million people who like to hear a play every afternoon or a daily serial reading of a work of



Monica Sims: "listening can be rewarding"

Literature. I once gave a talk in Holloway prison and was overwhelmed with demands to recount the endings of *Woman's Hour* serials which the prisoners had missed on going inside.

We must continue to cherish a unique national radio network which attempts to provide information and entertainment through a variety of high quality speech programmes for people who choose to listen with attention. If a national culture exists in the United Kingdom, quality radio, alongside television and popular radio, is a part of that culture. Its fostering of talent in writers, speakers, journalists, producers, actors, musicians and comedians nurtures an essential reservoir for all radio and television and should set standards which raise our expectations of quality in all forms of broadcasting.

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Bring the Mexico summit down to earth

by David Henderson

Rich and poor countries alike would benefit from the general adoption... of more liberal trade policies. The chief single obstacle to progress is in the realm of ideas

Most of the hopes expressed for the summit meeting at Cancun in Mexico have centred on two related objectives. First, the meeting is seen as a way to "revitalize the North-South dialogue". Second, it is hoped that in time, and largely through the dialogue, an extensive programme of international economic reforms will be undertaken.

The main purpose of reform is to deal with today's two principal economic problems — poverty in the developing countries of the South, and inflation, with slow growth, in the industrial countries of the North (ie, the West). Concerted action by these two groups of countries is seen as the key to prosperity, stability and peace, and the dialogue as the means by which the key is to be fashioned and put to use.

In my view such hopes are unrealistic, mainly because both diagnosis and general prescription are wrong. The economic fortunes of individual countries are not chiefly decided by the workings of the "international system" — would that the British could plead such an alibi! Neither "stagflation" nor poverty can be satisfactorily explained in these terms; nor can the wide variations in the economic performance of different countries, South or West.

Because so much depends on what goes on in a country, it is too optimistic to suppose that the economic prospects of rich and poor nations could be transformed by intergovernmental agreements between the two groups — even supposing, which is far from being the case, that what these agreements should contain was obvious and uncontroversial.

The idea that such changes could be brought about through the North-South dialogue is also unconvincing. In its existing form, at any rate, the dialogue is

not an effective mechanism. (Although its present title dates only from 1975, it has in fact been going on, with much the same agenda and procedures, for nearly 20 years. During that period little has been accomplished, for reasons that still hold good.)

Further conferences and "global negotiations" will be as unproductive as in the past, unless a firmer basis of common perceptions and interests can be found. The Brandt Report claims to have established such a basis, but on this as on most other subjects I found the report an untrustworthy guide.

However, if optimism about international "solutions" can be taken too far, it is also possible to err on the side of scepticism. It is not so much that each country should put its own economic house in order.

In an interdependent world such as today's, no country can decide its economic policies in isolation. There is a lot to be gained, as history clearly shows, by establishing and maintaining a framework or order within which national trade and payments policies and international transactions can be conducted. It is therefore reasonable to ask if and how the existing order can be improved.

I believe that changes are needed within the international arena, in both attitudes and policies — for the two go together — and on both sides of the North-South dialogue. Further, the dialogue itself should not be written off by the West as a waste of time. On the contrary, the attempt should be made to turn it into a useful instrument of change.

That will not be easy. It will require from both parties a willingness to re-examine present assumptions, and then to define and explore issues on which there can be genuine exchanges and negotiations — as distinct from ritual speechmaking and last-minute face-saving conference resolutions.

A good instance of the need for change, and for a different approach from both sides, is the issue of trade. Here there is a solid basis of mutual interest but one still insufficiently recognized as such. This interest lies in reducing barriers and restrictions — all round, not just in the West. Except in a few markets, of which petroleum is much the most important case, all countries stand to gain from this process.

The chief single obstacle to progress is in the realm of ideas. Those who determine policy in the West and the South have

many differences, but most share a common conviction: they are against an uncritical mercantilist. Thus they think that while each country will gain if others adopt more liberal policies, its own restrictive and promotional devices must work to its advantage. The art of statesmanship is seen as that of exploiting such devices to the full.

In the case of Britain, these crude though popular notions appear to dominate the trade policies of a government which professes to believe in market modes. Official policy now favours subsidized export credits, direct government promotion of export deals, aid tying, direct controls over trade in energy products, and so-called "orderly marketing" agreements (as in the case of Japanese vehicles).

It also advocates the retention of a highly restrictive and discriminatory arrangement — the Multi-Fibre Agreement — which for sheer bureaucratic complexity might make the most hardened Soviet trade planner quail.

Nor are such tendencies peculiar to this country. Statesmen and officials in the West sometimes make condescending reference to the failure of developing countries to appreciate the blessings of the free market. Such people might do well to examine the mote in their own eye.

As to the developing countries, their whole strategy of trade negotiation needs to be looked at again. It makes little sense to continue demanding free and even preferential access from the West while refusing to deal on the basis of reciprocity.

In the present state of the world economy, even quite liberal-minded governments find it hard not to defend struggling firms and industries against foreign competition. If jobs lost were seen to be matched by jobs

won through simultaneous concessions on both sides, the whole process of liberalizing North-South trade would stand a better chance.

Those developing countries now well established in world markets for manufactured goods, in particular, stand to make substantial gains. The notion that free trade benefits only the "strong", and that trade relations between rich and poor countries should be conducted on the basis of "affirmative action", is not only bad economics but tactically ill-advised.

It is not only in trade that a different approach would be helpful. Both parties to the North-South dialogue need to reconsider ideas and tactics. Western countries, especially the US and Britain, are in danger of falling into a negative and unresponsive line of conduct in their relations with the developing countries. This is presented as being hardheaded, but may well prove to be no more than shortsighted.

As to the developing countries, it is they that have determined the form and content of the dialogue. They might consider whether its sterility is not due in large part to their persistence with demands which are unrealistic, not only in the sense of being unacceptable as a basis for serious negotiation, but also because some of their underlying premises are wrong.

But possibly the most damaging illusion on the international scene are those shared by both sides. In West and South alike, deeply held mercantilist and nationalist convictions are the main obstacle to an improved international economic order.

The author is Professor of Political Economy at University College, London.

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Geoffrey Rippon: an enigmatic quality

Rippon: the man most unlikely to...

Among all the rumours circulating in Blackpool last week, perhaps the one that attracted most interest was not to say surprise — was the suggestion that Mr Geoffrey Rippon would challenge Mrs Thatcher next month for the party leadership.

At first sight it is hard to see the 57-year-old former Cabinet minister as a serious contender for the premiership. Since leaving office in 1974 he has concentrated more on Europe — he succeeded Sir Peter Kirk as leader of the Conservative delegation to the European Assembly — and then on his legal career. "West" he is a very active head of a set of chambers specializing in local government, planning and international law — than on politics.

Although a gregarious and well-liked back-bencher, he has made no particular efforts to cultivate contacts among the new intake of Conservative MPs from the last election whose support would be crucial to any challenge to Mrs Thatcher. Among these younger "west" Rippon is still something of an unknown quantity.

In fact, he has had a long record of both local and national political office which began as mayor of Sarnborough and leader of the Conservative group on the London County Council in the 1950s. He entered Parliament in 1955 and became a Cabinet minister in Sir Alec Douglas Home's Government at the early age of 39. A strong supporter of Edward Heath, he was responsible for negotiating British membership of the Common Market in the early 1970s. He ended his ministerial career as Secretary of State for the Environment.

This early political rise and his recent work at the Bar have a curious widespread reputation for lazziness. In fact, in his younger days, Geoffrey Rippon was regarded as a highly ambitious and determined politician.

Yet his most recent highly critical pronouncements about the Government have an air of detachment which hardly suggests a serious bid for the leadership. Colleagues were surprised, for example, at how ill-prepared was his speech at a fringe meeting in Blackpool last Thursday. As one of them put it yesterday, "it couldn't conceivably be said to be the speech of a potential prime minister".

The development of his political ideas has a similarly enigmatic quality. In his early days he was a member of the Monday Club and associated with the right on certain issues. He has never been a member of any of the well-known left-wing groups in the Conservative Party although he is in the One Nation group and has recently described himself as "a Conservative of

the Macmillan school of thought."

There is no doubt of Mr Rippon's opposition to the dominant drift of the Government's present policy. Again and again he has made clear his belief that monetarism is not the way to control inflation. Yet it would be going too far to see these repeated utterances as so many markers put down for a future leadership bid.

The fact is that he is keeping his options open and waiting to see what happens in the coming weeks. He feels that he has now defined what the right policy should be and any decision about putting himself forward as a stalking horse against Mrs Thatcher will be taken on the basis of what the Government actually does and what sort of overtures are made to him by disident Tory MPs.

There are, frankly, unlikely to be many such invitations. Most backbench "west" feel that the only effective way to challenge Mrs Thatcher would be for a sitting Cabinet minister, preferably Mr Peter Walker, to resign and stand against her in the leadership election. They are noticeably less enthusiastic about a challenge by someone like Mr Rippon who has been out of office for so long and has never really made his peace with Mrs Thatcher.

One leading member of the so-called "Blue Chips" predicted yesterday that, if he stood in the leadership election, Mr Rippon would receive only half a dozen votes. Sir Ian Gilmour, he suggested, would be a more attractive candidate to the wets. There is as yet no indication that Sir Ian would be prepared to stand. Even if he were, there is still a general feeling among disident Tories that it would be better to rely on the pressure of events, including defeat in Thursday's Croydon North West by-election, to change the Government's course.

Unlikely as it looks, however, it would be premature to write off the possibility of Mr Rippon's intervention in the leadership election altogether. Close colleagues say that his ambition and ability should never be under-rated and feel that events in Blackpool last week may have given him the resolve to challenge Mrs Thatcher.

Some are even pointing out that his political style closely resembles that of Mrs Thatcher herself late in 1974. Several people were then putting her forward as a possible stalking horse to run against Edward Heath, not so much to oust him as to test the water and fire a warning shot against his bows. Very few of them thought she would ever actually win.

Ian Bradley

Shorter than Castle and more accurate than Crossman

The Rt Hon James Hacker, MP, Minister for Administrative Affairs, returns to British television screens tonight to retrace his steps through the minefields of Whitehall. Volume One of his memoirs is reviewed here by Lord Allen of Abbeydale, former Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office.

We must be grateful to the editors from Hacker College, Oxford, who have reduced to narrative form the diaries of the Rt Hon James Hacker MP (as he then was) which cover his first six months as Minister for Administrative Affairs. We are, happily, promised further volumes as Hacker went to avoid success in even more important posts.

We have had diaries from other Cabinet ministers, but none I think which have been quite so illuminating about the policy-formulating processes and relations between minister and civil servant. Hacker seems to have had no need of help from junior ministers. But this is not surprising when he had as Permanent Secretary the experienced Sir Humphrey Appleby, as his private secretary Bernard Woolley, who was at the start of a career which took him to the headship of the civil service and a GCB, and as his political adviser the perceptive Frank Wessell — sorry, Weisel.

By the time the diary was prepared for publication the editors had also had access to Sir Humphrey's minutes, which had become available

under the 30-year rule, and to the private diary which he had kept contrary to all the rules, and had been able to talk to Sir Bernard after his retirement. They have also been diligent in finding the scripts of some BBC interviews, and have tracked down a splendid cartoon by Jack.

Hacker was not, perhaps, the ideal minister. But he was an acute observer and a careful listener to those who knew more than he did, such as his chauffeur. His memory of the civil service was fully records the advice which he received from Sir Humphrey in such clear terms. Examples abound. One will suffice. When Sir Humphrey was pressed for a straight answer, he said that "as far as we can see, looking at it by and large, taking one thing with another in terms of the average of departments then in the last analysis it is probably true to say that at the end of the day, you would find, in general terms that, not to put too fine a point on it, there really was not very much in it one way or the other."

He went on to explain that if he were not pressed for a straight answer, he would play for time. Hacker noted

too the civil servant's passion for accuracy. He himself referred to a document which was in its third draft as having been redrafted three times, and it had to be explained to him that it had been re-drafted only twice. (At this point I could perhaps comment that the editing is not impeccable, for example an explanatory note wrongly spells the name of Sir Antony Part.)

Hacker had a difficult job. He had a roving commission to investigate waste and inefficiency anywhere in Whitehall, when he had spent the previous seven years, naturally enough, shadowing a totally different department. It also took him time to realise that, in office, "open government" and "collective responsibility" do not have quite the same meanings as when in opposition.

All the same, his diary

records some modest triumphs. He persuaded an old university chum who turned up as President of Bursaria to omit from his speech at Holyrood, on a day when there were by-elections in three marginal Scottish constituencies, an impassioned plea to the Celtic peoples to rise against English oppression.

He saved his own department from extinction by a neat bit of footwork when he conveyed the message to Number 10 that such a step might be accompanied by publicity adverse to the Prime Minister's ambition to be awarded a valuable prize as a good European. He even outwitted Sir Humphrey over plans for a new National Data Base by going to his predecessor and discovering what advice Sir Humphrey had tendered to him. He records, incidentally, how much easier

it is to be friends with members of the opposite party than with members of one's own party with whom one is in direct personal competition for office.

But although Hacker is entitled to some satisfaction over achievements like this, it must be conceded that on his own showing, he was a little too innocent for high office. When he first met Sir Humphrey, he found him charming and intelligent, a typical mandarin, and he thought that the civil servants were most cooperative and ready to jump to it when spoken to firmly. But then doubts began to creep in. He found himself rushing into decisions and interviews which resulted in disaster, he wondered if he was really being told all he should, and he began to reflect that over the months he was achieving precisely nothing.

He even grew tired of the witicism with which his private secretary was apt to adorn any crisis. Small wonder that, like others, he fell victim in the end to the delusion that the doctrine that civil servants are there to advise, and then to implement whatever policy the minister decides may not represent the whole truth.

Despite misunderstandings like this — perhaps because of them — it is a fascinating diary. I even wonder whether it might not provide material for a TV series. It certainly deserves to be widely read. It is shorter than Barbara Castle's diary, and costs rather less. And although it is rather more accurate than Dick Crossman's, it is distinctly funnier.

**Yes Minister, Volume 1*, Edited by Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay (BBC, £2.50).

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James Hacker, MP, Lord Allen of Abbeydale and Sir Humphrey Appleby

A new editor's chair for Anne Smith?

A dark horse has emerged late in the running for the editor's chair at *The Listener*, shortly to be vacated by Anthony Howard. Sources at the BBC tell me that Dr Anne Smith, until recently editor of *The Literary Review*, has been added to the short-list of candidates, confounding expectations that BBC executives had sewn up the job for a time internal applicant.

Dr Smith confirms that she is being interviewed in London next week but says that as an outsider she reckons she has no more than an outside chance. She is meanwhile finalizing details of finance and distribution for the launch of her own magazine, provisionally entitled *The Common Reader*.

"The name's a Cambridge", she admits in Edinburgh brogue, "but it grows on you."

but about him. His own work will be a first-hand account of how Shostakovich coped himself under Stalinist persecution in 1948 — "Unfortunately I was not yet born when Stalin first denounced him in 1938".

Maxim is also negotiating a contract — offered to him by EMI while he was still in Moscow — to record a complete cycle of his father's orchestral works. The soloists in the concertos will be his own son, also Dmitri, and his friend and fellow exile, Mstislav Rostropovich.

Asked if his interpretation of his father's works had changed at all since he left Russia, he says: "From boyhood onwards my understanding of Shostakovich has been the same. It was lucky for me that the functionaries who control music in the USSR understand nothing at all about it — so they were unable to recognize the truth when I played it there."

Slogan slanging I hear that Teddy Kennedy, who comes up for re-election to the Senate next year, has made a campaign decision which, on the face of it, looks astute. He has appointed as his publicity adviser Jacques Séguéla, the man who helped François Mitterrand to victory.

Séguéla may be just what Kennedy needs: a proven success in the art of converting a yesterday's choice into the court-tribune's choice for the future. But his success will also depend — I cannot resist it — on American graffiti. Séguéla was recalling slogan pitfalls in Paris the other

THE TIMES DIARY

I ran into the world's greatest living Welshman, Wynford Vaughan Thomas, in the House of Commons yesterday at a party to launch the book about the Anzio landings and the battle for Rome. Everyone, from Field-Marshal Lord Harding to Lord De L'Isle and General H. A. Lascelles was very complimentary about Trevelyan's accuracy in the book: he had challenged their memories on several occasions, I was told, and had been proved right. Trevelyan was presented with a couple of medals from Dr Piero Marighiani, the Mayor of Anzio, who is anxious that his town be thought of as a modern tourist resort as well as part of Second World War history. The mayor found, to his delight, that Denis Healey's Italian was easily up to the occasion.

day. He had been keen on "Take the Mitterrand road": not likely, said party activists. It would be spray-gunned into "Take the Mitterrand impasse". But "La Force Tranquille", the slogan they eventually came up with, has been even easier to mutilate. In its new version the "o" in force has simply been changed to an "a".

Plague and plaque There's no holding these London Dungeon people. Not content with extending their club to include

descendants of torturers as well as of the victims, as I reported last week, they now want to see some of London's grisly landmarks sporting special black plaques, so the capital can profit from the more horrific aspects of its past. They would be similar to the blue plaques commemorating the famous rather than the infamous.

Annabel Geddes, of the London Dungeon Exhibition and a director of the London Tourist Authority, has put the suggestion to the GLC leader, Ken Livingstone. She said: "The black plaques

She's a compulsive gambler — she takes five newspapers...



would mark the sites of execution, torture, incarceration and examples of squalor such as plague pits and prisons like 'The Clinic'.

"Tourism is really in the doldrums and it seems ridiculous to let this aspect of British history go unrecorded when it could help boost a business that is London's second largest money-earner."

Sites that Mrs Geddes believes would be worthy of such plaques include the Angel pub in Rotherhithe, from which Judge Jeffries watched executions, 186 Fleet Street, the site of Sweeney Todd's barber shop, Spamards Road, Hampstead Heath, where Dick Turpin staged many hold-ups,

and 39 Hilldrop Crescent, where Dr Crippen once lived. I wonder if any address qualifies for both black and blue plaques?

Criss-cross

Although he is now in his third party, having forsaken Labour to join the SDP, Humphrey Berkeley, the former Conservative MP, does not claim to hold the record for changing political parties. He told me yesterday that he reckons the prize must go to Sir William (later Lord) Jowitt, who started out in 1922 as a Liberal MP, returned to the Commons in 1929 for Labour, went over to National Labour in 1931 and later returned to the Labour fold, ending up as Lord Chancellor in Attlee's government. Best that if you can.

Status symbol

So much for the deterrent effect of prison. A solicitor's clerk, from one of the big criminal firms, visited a young client last week in Ashford remand centre to help the lad with his defence. "Miss", the lad said, "all I want from you is an official letter, on headed notepaper like, saying I stole a Roller and drove it round the smoke for two weeks."

"But that's exactly what you're charged with", said the clerk. "What help would that be?" "None of the other lads in here believe me, miss."

Light on Poldark

Author Winston Graham, who was given what he called "semi-canonicalization" when his Poldark books were turned into two successful television series, has rarely said

what he thought of them. But an audience at St Michael Penkivel Church, near Truro, Cornwall, has just been given some insight into his reaction.

In the first series, which represented 800 minutes of viewing time, I recognized just nine lines of my own dialogue," he said. "After protests to the producers, the second series contained more of my own material and was more interesting. They even offered me a cameo role. A Scofield or a Guinness could not have done better. But when the episode came to be shown it was cut. "They tried again, and offered me the role of a drowning miner, which I turned down. Then they gave me a role kissing the bride at a wedding. We had to do the scene so many times that after I had kissed her again and again I said to the girl, one of the prettiest actresses in the cast: 'I'm getting more out of this than the bridegroom.' And more than he's likely to come the reply."

Slimmer Eiffel

The Eiffel Tower is getting a £19 million facelift and slimmerdown in which she is expected to shed 1,000 tons. Engineers are repairing the ravages of time — even though she still sways by no more than 7.67 inches in the heaviest gale — and preparing the tower for the twenty-first century.

The loss of those 1,000 tons — one eleventh of the total — should prolong the tower's life considerably. Most will come off the first level, where the existing concrete platform is being replaced with thinner and lighter steel.

Peter Watson



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A HARD WINTER

The tumbrels will roll into Downing Street today for the first attempt to cut back next year's public spending plans. There is nothing peculiar to Mrs Thatcher's government in the sense of anguish and division this arouses. Every Cabinet in the past 20 years has been faced with the same mid-term crisis and been given by it. Harmony can reign only when Ministers abandon both departmental briefs and economic convictions (the two always run in harness). The exercise guarantees conflict and this year the Treasury said to be asking for cuts of up to £5 billion — at a time when the economy is on its back and pretty well every Blackpool fringe meeting last week reverberated with the call for more — not less — public spending, to reverse unemployment.

The budget deficit is not all a reflection of loose living — though the Government's acceptance of a rate of public sector wage-rises nearly double that of the private sector has done much to make nonsense of its rhetoric about cutting back the public sector. Every government since 1945 has found it far more difficult to get to grips with the public sector than its promises in opposition allowed. And in this case the British Government — like its similarly inclined equivalent of the US — has been caught by the vicious cycle of high unemployment, recession and high interest rates leading to greater than expected public spending on benefits and lower than expected income from taxes, leading to the need to cut more expenditure and increase unemployment. A million unemployed costs the Government £3.5 billion. Three million unemployed costs it over £10 billion.

But if the Government was slow in preventing real public spending from rising by its initial softness on public service employees it has this year instituted very real cuts in the level of services, as universities and local councils will

readily testify. The nationalised industries are still using far more than predicted, but then it is difficult to see what can be done with BL or British Steel which is not already being done, short of closing them down at a far higher cost to the Exchequer in redundancy and unemployment benefit. There has been useful pruning of waste in the public sector and there are no doubt still areas where there is fat. But to reduce public spending plans for the coming year to within anywhere near the Government's medium-term target it will have to cut where it causes real pain, reducing short-term benefits for the unemployed and the needy, cutting back still further on education and grants, raising the costs of medical care. Or it will have to raise taxes, thus further depressing the economy in a way that is anathema to Sir Geoffrey Howe.

There is no way out of this dilemma while the Prime Minister and Chancellor pin so much on the global public sector borrowing requirement. This part of the totem pole should be officially pulled down. It is not even required by monetarist theory. Dr Milton Friedman has suggested time and again that the key to reducing inflation is to target the money supply, not the public sector borrowing requirement. The PSBR is misleading, there is no necessary relation between the size of the PSBR and monetary growth, and, fundamentally, the emphasis on the PSBR diverts attention from the really important aspect of government fiscal policy which is the fraction of the nation's output that is diverted to uses determined by government officials.

From another point of view Lord Croom, a former head of the Treasury, has testified that damage has been done to the real economy — is still being done — by the concentration on the absolute size of the PSBR rather than the way it is made up. It is capital

investment and infrastructure that gets cut every time and current expenditure and transfers that go through. This, as Lord Croom dryly remarks, would be appropriate if there were signs that we were overinvesting in our economy. He is surely right to say that investment, in private and public sector, should be determined by considerations of the expected net return "and not by the high theology of what does and what does not come within the PSBR". Such is the unwillingness to allow schemes for new capital investment in the public sector to be financed by public subscription. As the Chairman of the Stock Exchange remarked last week, the mystique of Treasury accounting which confuses capital and revenue takes a lot of understanding. The parrot cry that public investment crowds out private is thoroughly unconvincing at a time of recession.

As important as this approach to the capital sector is toughness — real toughness — on current expenditure. The Government must keep public sector wages down. It would be grossly unfair to ask workers in the private sector or those receiving lower rises than inflation in state benefits to take a cut in real income if public sector wages are allowed to rise in the way they have been in the first years of the Government's life. There is a case, as we have argued, for a norm 4 per cent less than that proposed, though we do not underestimate the difficulties. But the Government has seemed somewhat nervous about applying its 4 per cent ceiling to the critical area of the nationalised industries. It should not be. If it means to succeed in its strategy for conquering inflation, and, more importantly now, containing unemployment wages must now be its first priority and that includes the wages of the miners and water workers as well as civil servants. If that means a hard winter, so be it.

GREECE MIGHT STILL BE FREE

Greece is now about to have the first socialist government in its history, pledged to carry out an extensive programme of social reforms. Its allies and partners in the western world will be watching anxiously to see whether the new government also intends to carry out the radical revision of its foreign policy which Papanastasiou has often advocated. At its most extreme, this would involve withdrawal from both Nato and the European Community, and the adoption of a policy of non-alignment. It now seems most unlikely that Mr Papanastasiou's Government will go as far as that. But it will want to make its mark in relations with both organizations, so that at best there will now have to be a process of mutual adjustment, and, at worst, more tension.

"Change" was the main slogan of Papanastasiou in the campaign. New Democracy, the moderate conservative party founded by Mr Karamanlis in 1974, has been in power since the collapse of the colonels' regime and has many achievements to its credit. It restored democracy in Greece and reestablished Greece's relations with the western world; it negotiated Greek entry into the EEC and its return to the military structures of NATO. It redirected the energies of the armed forces so that they became a more efficient fighting force and less political.

GOOD POLICY: BAD MANNERS

The Government's failure to send a high level representative to the funeral of General Dayan may not be a diplomatic gaffe of the first order, but it is symptomatic of lack of sensitivity in British dealings with Israel. While honouring an Israeli national hero in an appropriate way would not have improved at a stroke the present rather poor state of Anglo-Israeli relations, it might have been a small step in the right direction. France and Germany both sent Ministers. So did the United States, which was also represented by the former Secretary of State, Mr Vance. The best that Britain could manage was the consul general in Tel Aviv, since the Ambassador was unavailable, and sending a minister from London presented insuperable "practical difficulties".

These are feeble excuses. The Israelis are already convinced that British foreign policy is, at worst, hostile to Israel and, at best, indifferent to Israeli interests. In fact this is not the case. More often than not it is the Israelis who have either failed to understand British and European policy, or have set out to undermine it without considering its merits. The Euro-

pean initiative on the Middle East is an attempt to take the peace process further by involving the Palestine Liberation Organisation, while ensuring that Israel's national security is guaranteed. The Israelis have ignored the second half of this formula, and under Mr Begin have made progress on the Palestinian question difficult by pursuing an expansionist policy on the West Bank. But equally, the Europeans — with Lord Carrington in the van — have not taken adequate account of Israeli anxieties, which have their roots in the long history of violence between Palestinian Arab and Jew. The fact that the PLO has not yet moderated its hostility towards Israel does not mean that it will never do so, and the Europeans are right to persist. Lord Carrington will be pressing for the PLO to recognize Israel conditionally when he visits Saudi Arabia shortly. But he has at the same time to try to persuade the Israelis that such attempts are worth while.

This is more than anything a matter of tone, and of style. Matters have not been helped by the accident of history which has put the former

Rallis's New Democracy government for, as he described it, "giving way to Turkey". One of his first appointments is to meet President Kyprianou of Cyprus this week, presumably to discuss relations with Turkey. But if Greece pulls out of Nato's military structure, as Mr Papanastasiou has threatened to do, it leaves the field open to Turkey by giving Ankara a bigger place in Nato planning; and there would be a similar effect if the American bases in Greece, which have been there since the 1950s, were closed. In his recent statements, Mr Papanastasiou appears to have appreciated this point, but he still has to reveal what his policy in office will be.

One indication that Greek policies may not change too radically is the continuing presence of President Karamanlis, the architect of Greek democracy and the main proponent of a western orientation. As President, he does not in normal circumstances have a direct say in government policies. But he has certain prerogatives, like the power to call a referendum, and he has great prestige in Greece. Forunately, he appears to have established good relations with Mr Papanastasiou, but if he thought that government policies were going wildly awry he could be expected to make his feelings known.

leader of the Irgun in charge of Israel's affairs. Memories of the Mandate period are still bitter on both sides. Yet Mr Begin's attitude is balanced by warmer feelings toward Britain, an ambivalence shared to a greater or less extent by many Israelis. Britain too has mixed feelings about the conduct of the Jewish State for whose existence it is largely responsible. It is the positive aspect of this relationship that must be accentuated if Britain — and Europe's — attempt to bridge Arab and Israeli views is to bear fruit.

On the Israeli side, this means examining the merits of the European initiative, rather than dismissing it out of hand. On the British side, it means showing sympathy for the Israeli point of view, and using small but significant occasions like the Dayan funeral to create an improved atmosphere. General Dayan, after all, lost an eye and acquired his famous black patch while fighting as a young man for the British against the Vichy French in Lebanon during the Second World War. All the more dismal, then, that we could not even find a junior minister to honour his passing.

BL's pay offer to workforce

From the General Secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff Sir, The Government claims to support free collective bargaining. The three by British Leyland management to close down, with the loss of 500,000 jobs in BL and its associated suppliers if the workforce refuse the 3.8 per cent offer, is the price the country pays for Mrs Thatcher's undisciplined incomes policy, in which no holds are barred.

There can be no doubt that the BL offer is made for this purpose. The offer by the company of an improved incentive scheme with a bonus payment ceiling increased by £7.50 a week shows that the company will generate much more cash than the 3.8 per cent increase indicates. The facts indicate that BL's situation is not so bleak as the management suggests. From January, 1981, after the transfer of Rover to Conley, with other cutbacks in overheads, and with the successful launch of the Metro and Acclaim, the future of BL and its efficiency will be much improved.

Increases in efficiency depend primarily on investment and good management. White-collar staff at BL have given substantial increases in efficiency without so far having the benefit of any incentive scheme. To weight the possibility of increases to the detriment of incentive payments, as the company is trying to do, as compared with increases in basic salary, is a deliberate choice by management to support Government policy rather than a proper assessment of the relative role of each in a just system of reward.

Those workers in factories which have had the least investment are rewarded with the lowest earnings; this discrimination is reinforced by the offer.

There are good reasons to believe that the parties can reach a viable and fair agreement if the company can get the Government off its back. BL already pays below the national average and is securing above-average increases in productivity. Yet it has been asked for a third year to a low basic increase to satisfy totally extraneous political considerations. This is deplorable for BL to be asked to do this, after 500,000 more to be made unemployed would be a disaster, not only for them, but for any hope of industrial regeneration and for the future of the Government.

Yours faithfully,
ROY GRANTHAM,
Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff,
22 Worpole Road, SW19,
October 19.

Short lets for students

From the President of the National Union of Students:
Sir, Shortlet tenancies were introduced last year by the Government in a desperate attempt to halt the decline of the private rented housing sector. Shortlet tenants are entitled to special assistance to students, young and single people, groups with major housing difficulties.

In fact, shortlets have flopped badly. Only 1,500 have been introduced, the private sector has continued to shrink. The Government's response is to weaken further shortlet tenants' rights. Such tenants already have minimal security of tenure. Now the Housing Minister has told the Conservative Party Conference that he intends to remove the compulsory requirement to register a fair rent before the start of the shortlet letting.

In recent weeks, the shortage of suitable housing for students has been obvious. The new proposal will not ease this problem; in fact, it will make it worse. Students will now have to face landlords who will offer them one year short-let at high rents. If students then consider having a fair rent set, they will be told that their tenancies will not be extended. Students, desperate for housing, will thus be forced to accept and pay very high rents. The Government's proposal will consequently hurt a very vulnerable group. We hope the Minister will think again when he returns from Blackpool. Yours faithfully,
DAVID AARONOVITCH,
National Union of Students,
3 Endsleigh Street, WC1,
October 14.

The nuclear balance

From Mr Frederick Bonmart:
Sir, Mrs Caroline Gournay (letter, October 8) is quite right in saying that the Warsaw Pact was set up after Nato as their treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance. A poor copy of the North Atlantic Treaty, was signed in May 1955. What she omits to state is that it merely formalized the existing situation of the Soviet domination of eastern Europe which dated from 1945. It was to defend western Europe against the persistent and systematic Soviet territorial expansion which culminated in the Berlin blockade of 1948 that Nato arose.

Anti-inflation strategy and its ironies

From Mr G. A. D. Emerson:
Sir, In his criticisms of Mr Heath Mr Paul Ashton (letter, October 12) repeats the monetarist's dogma that "high interest rates are an essential part of a successful strategy to reduce inflation".

Britain may have possessed the first important economy to embrace monetarist policies, but several lesser countries have had longer experience of such policies and more time to digest some of the lessons.

From 1977 to this year Argentina, during the time that I had the privilege of being your correspondent there, adopted policies of high interest rates and a highly valued currency to combat inflation. It was found that the astronomical interest payable on loans debited to borrowers' accounts increased the money supply as surely as any government printing press and that this phenomenon could only be disguised by so narrowing the definition of money supply as to make it irrelevant. In monetarist terms high interest rates fuelled inflation; they did not restrict it.

Because productive private enterprise (mainly industry and farming) could not pay these interest rates out of profits its activity declined; on the other hand there was an increase in non-productive financial operations and in state enterprise, since the monetarist's corporations could either increase their cash limits indefinitely or use their monopolistic positions to pass any financial costs on to their customers.

Thus a right-wing government professing love for free enterprise was by its financial policies increasing the participation of the state in the economy.

The greater sophistication of the British economy plus a timely civil servants' strike have helped to act as a smokescreen so that these effects of high interest rates are not obvious to all. But let there be no doubt as to the nature of these effects: it should be the supporters of Mr Heath, not Mrs Thatcher, extolling the virtues of such rates.

Yours faithfully,
TONY EMERSON,
Culverthorpe Hall,
Grantham,
Lincolnshire,
October 13.

Nuclear-free Balkans

From Mr N. L. Papaliozou:
Sir, I refer to Mario Modiano's article, "Papanastasiou seeks atomic-free Balkans" in *The Times* yesterday, October 12.

Mr Modiano explains that Mr Papanastasiou's proposal would, if elected to govern Greece, work towards a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans within a period of six months after taking office. In addition, a Pasok government would ask for the prompt removal by Nato of all nuclear weapons stored in Greece.

He then separates the two commitments by stating that it is unclear if the latter would be a unilateral act by the new government or conditional on the former, i.e. that the other Balkan states would accept the regional plan. It is emphasised that this is an obscure area of policy and one which Mr Papanastasiou is reluctant to clarify.

I am pleased to tell your readers that proposals for a Balkan nuclear-free zone are not anything new, but for the exclusive property of Mr Papanastasiou, and I

should become far less acute, particularly since the measures proposed are not mutually exclusive and it is certainly arguable that none of them can succeed on its own for any length of time.

The sooner that it is recognized that the attack on real incomes is common ground for all the major parties the sooner recovery can take place. You, Sir, with your confidantes in the press and the broadcasting companies are in the best position to promote such a recognition by shifting the focus of comment away from the doctrinal polemics of the economists and politicians to the sad but inevitable necessity for sacrifice.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. MILLER,
28 St Ann's Terrace, NW8,
October 12.

From Mr Roger Fox:
Sir, Professor Hague argues (October 13) that Mrs Thatcher's economic policy should be shifted to emphasise "genuine supply-side economics" with a more flexible economy, looser labour markets, and a more relevant education system.

Unfortunately for *Times* readers, however, Professor Hague omits that a central area for supply side is the importance of cutting taxes even when the Government budget is in deficit. Offsetting income tax cuts with indirect tax increases, as in 1979, is insufficient. Tax reductions are essential not only to improve incentives but also, in the United Kingdom case, to increase domestic output and investment, reduce unemployment, and following increased economic activity, actually raise total Government revenues.

It is in this area of policy where the present Government has so singularly failed, and this failure to cut taxes has reduced the monetary policy to one of pure deflation with little prospect of recovery.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER FOX,
Senior Lecturer,
James Polytechnic,
Wellington Street, SE18,
October 14.

From Mr M. D. Golding:
Sir, It is evident that the recession has increased the PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) by decreasing the Government's income from taxation while increasing expenditure through unemployment benefit. A controlled expansion of the economy would therefore be largely self-financing and not likely to add greatly to inflation.

It was Mrs Thatcher's Conservative Party which, before the election in 1979, said it would pay for reduced taxes by expanding the economy. Why then do her supporters balk at the suggestion that the economy can be given some stimulus without adding to net expenditure? This surely is simply the other side of the coin.

Yours faithfully,
M. GOLDING,
18 Shephall Lane,
Stevenage,
Hertfordshire,
October 16.

for one would read (happily) a lot more into the time scale, six months, which he announced for the creation of this zone. The fact is that proposals for a Balkan nuclear-free zone have been submitted by Romania in 1957, 1968 and 1972 and more importantly by Bulgaria and the Soviet Union jointly in August, 1981. Romania very keenly endorsed and supported the 1981 proposals. So Mr Papanastasiou, in echoing these proposals, is repeating they are not his — is not only enhancing the prospects of a Balkan nuclear-free zone, but he is also hinting very strongly that regional discussions and consultations have already taken place. The conclusion is that if Pasok is elected we shall very probably see the kind of cooperation/co-ordination in the Balkans that we have seen in the Nordic countries with a view of creating nuclear-free zones in those regions.

Yours sincerely,
N. L. PAPALIOZOU,
1 Byron Court,
1 Byron Road,
North Wembley, Middlesex,
October 13.

Sentencing policy

From Dr Stephen Shaw:
Sir, Your report today (October 15) of the comments by Judge Pickles on the Home Secretary's branch of the Magistrates' Association illustrates the difficulties facing the Home Secretary in meeting the crisis in our prisons. Yet the Judge's comments appear very muddled indeed. It is very strange to read that the Home Secretary is accused of acting unconstitutionally in proposing legislation on sentencing. After all, the power of magistrates to imprison is already constrained by law and maximum penalties for offences are laid down in statute.

The independence of the judiciary is not threatened by these restrictions. The duty of the judiciary is to impose sentences within the limits set by Parliament. It is the duty of Parliament

to decide what these limits should be. Moreover, when exhortation by the Lord Chief Justice, the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary has singularly failed to prevent the imposition of both unnecessary and unnecessarily long prison sentences then legislation, as the All-Party Penal Affairs Committee recently noted, is inevitable.

It is quite true that the Home Office could do more to invest in non-custodial penalties. But the judiciary do not and should not have the power to impose prison sentences without regard to wider public policy. In suggesting that they should have this right, it is Judge Pickles who is attempting to act unconstitutionally.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
Nuffield Lodge,
Regent's Park, NW1.

Bail in practice

From Mr Keith Kinnell:
Sir, Under the heading, "Miscarriages of bail" (*The Times*, October 15), you mention that the Bail Act 1976 lays down three exceptions to the general presumption in favour of bail and I think it should be pointed out that the three exceptions you mention are not exhaustive.

Furthermore it is also stated in the editorial that no objection is made by the police to the grant of bail because very often they do not know enough about the accused at the time of remand, and one of the exceptions omitted

from the editorial is particularly relevant and provides that "The defendant need not be granted bail where the court is satisfied that it has not been practicable to obtain sufficient information for the purpose of taking the decisions required by this part of the schedule for want of time since the institution of the proceedings against him".

Yours faithfully,
KEITH KINNELL,
Clerk to the Justices,
PO Box No 8,
The Magistrates' Court,
London Road,
Dorking, Surrey.

Conifer protection for British oaks

From the Director of the Royal Forestry Society

Sir, Richard North's "environmental briefing" entitled "Who will plant the oaks of the future?" that you published on October 14 does less than justice to foresters' efforts, state and private, over the last sixty years, to put right in some small degree the devastation of our natural woodlands that had gone on for four thousand years. He draws a "black and white" distinction between broadleaved trees which are acceptable and conifers which are not. This oversimplification was brought home to me most forcibly whilst reading the article on the evening of a day spent in the woodlands of the National Trust.

There are, like many other woodland owners, including the Forestry Commission on suitable land, are growing the oaks and beeches that Richard North wants but they have often been established within a protective matrix of conifers. These faster-growing and more hardy trees are needed for the first thirty years or so but too often only the conifers are noticed. Never was there a better example of "failing to see the trees for the wood".

A few hours before writing this letter I was standing in the finest 50-year-old beech wood I have seen in Britain in thirty years of professional forestry and was being told by the National Trust forester how it had been established in a 50 per cent mixture with conifers. Although there are none in that wood now, we should be grateful for the valuable "nursing" conifers and acknowledge their financial contribution to the expensive business of growing trees over the period when the longer-lived hardwoods contribute nothing to the balance. And what is wrong with putting money in the bank anyway? Without financial incentives we would have few new woodlands.

Elsewhere we saw younger oak still masked to the inexperienced eye by their protective conifers but as a result of that the oaks were already tall and straight as good timber trees must be in their early years. In time these trees, and many others like them that have been planted since the last war, will provide for both the material and spiritual needs that Richard North points to. But we are barely one quarter of an oak generation from the woodland devastation that occurred as recently as the second world war and a longer perspective than Richard North's is needed to see the slow but sure rehabilitation of Britain's woodlands. This in the main will not be a reversion to the long-important but now out-moded coppice systems, but fine timber trees — the good quality conifers as well as oaks and beeches — that we can grow better in Britain than in the rest of Europe or Scandinavia and which will provide aesthetic and financial rewards hand in hand. What other industry can do this? Britain's small but important forestry industry is well suited to do so for future generations.

Yours faithfully,
E. H. M. HARRIS,
The Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland,
102 High Street,
Tring, Hertfordshire,
October 15.

Open churches

From Mr David Cotton:
Sir, A propos inability to find church keys and times of church services, I had great difficulty last year when spending the weekend at a large hotel in Luton in physically finding an Anglican church to go to, let alone the times of its services. I ascertained the telephone number of several other churches, but why could not the Church of England appear in the Yellow Pages of a telephone directory?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COTTON,
10 Westlands Way,
Exeter, Surrey,
October 13.

Unemployment cycle

From Mr A. G. Thompson:
Sir, It was interesting to hear Mr Norman Tebbit indulging in a little nostalgia at the Conservative Party conference (report, October 16). He informed us that in the 1930s his father, who found himself unemployed, had "got on his bike and looked for work". This statement induced memories of my own. Father, a builder's labourer, did exactly the same; sometimes lucky, sometimes not; and I well remember on one occasion seeing him in the dole queue — a very unpleasant experience.

Hoping for better things, I qualified as an accountant, and never had a single day's unemployment. But this occupation has left me with a strange fascination for statistics.

So I reckon that if 1,500,000 of our three million unemployed took out their bikes and cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats in search of work, the first couple would reach the House of Commons just as the last couple was leaving. I have not overlooked the remaining half of the three million; how could I? They would be seen on the other side of the road returning home.

Perhaps somebody should tell the Secretary of State for Employment that the reason we have three million unemployed is not that they have lost their cycling skills but that there is a shortage of three million jobs.

Yours sincerely,
ALBERT G. THOMPSON,
129 Wakefield Road,
Garforth,
Leeds,
October 16



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

SUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 19. The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, this afternoon opened the Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton.

Her Royal Highness was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, Sir Humphrey (The Earl of Malmesbury), unveiled a commemorative plaque and toured the Hospital.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips later visited the Department of Psychiatry at the Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton.

Her Royal Highness, attended by Mrs Andrew Fielder, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

By command of The Queen, the Lord of Ashbourne (Lord in Waiting) called upon Princess Alexandra of Greece and Denmark this morning and welcomed Her Imperial Highness on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 19. Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, attended a Gala Performance this evening by Shochiku Kabuki at Sadler's Wells.

Forthcoming marriages
Mr E. H. Garner and Miss A. C. Meadows.

The engagement is announced between Edward Henry, youngest son of Colonel and the Hon Mrs W. A. Garner, of London, and Miss A. C. Meadows, of London.

Mr J. D. Payne and Miss L. M. Grier.
(The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr E. Payne, and Miss L. M. Grier, of London.)

Mr P. J. Bushnell and Miss C. V. Drew-Edwards.
(The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr P. J. Bushnell, and Miss C. V. Drew-Edwards, of London.)

Mr D. B. Carpenter and Miss K. S. Walsh.
(The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr D. B. Carpenter, and Miss K. S. Walsh, of London.)

Mr J. F. Chavasse and Miss M. J. Worth.
(The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr J. F. Chavasse, and Miss M. J. Worth, of London.)

Mr F. J. Lutz and Miss J. D. Jenks.
(The engagement is announced between Frank, son of Mr F. J. Lutz, and Miss J. D. Jenks, of London.)

Middle Temple awards
The Masters of the Bench of the Middle Temple have awarded the following entrance exhibitions, entrance bursaries and prizes:

BLACKSTONE ENTRANCE EXHIBITIONS
Mr A. D. B. Smith, of St Mary's, 100; Mr A. D. B. Smith, of St Mary's, 100; Mr A. D. B. Smith, of St Mary's, 100.

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Theatre and was later present at a reception.

Miss Jean Maxwell-Scott was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester, President, National Association of Boys' Clubs, this morning launched Club Week 1981, at Guildhall, London.

His Royal Highness was later entertained to Luncheon by the Master of the Saddlers Company (Mr Robert Laurie) at the Saddlers' Hall, London.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will attend the Anglo-Turkish Society dinner and dance at the Savoy Hotel, London, on November 7.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as patron of the Association for All Speech-Impaired Children, will attend the opening of an art exhibition at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on November 7.

A memorial service for General Sir John Macgregor, 84, will be held at St Luke's, Sydney Street, Chelsea, on Thursday, October 29, at 3.30 pm.

Mr A. J. L. Lawson
The engagement is announced between Alastair Julian Lawson, youngest son of Mr and Mrs A. J. Lawson, of Cape Town, South Africa, and Miss J. M. Gibbs, daughter of Mr P. J. Warburton-Lee, of Broad Oak, Winchester, Hampshire, and the late Mrs Caroline Warburton-Lee.

Mr J. M. Gibbs
The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of the late Mr W. M. Messenger and Mrs Messenger, of Greyhound, New Zealand, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Gibbs, of Cresson Lodge, Northampton.

Mr T. H. Squires
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr Frank Squires, of Keston Terrace, London, and the late Mrs Squires, and Mrs T. H. Squires, of Keston Terrace, London.

Mr E. J. Torrens-Spence
The engagement is announced between Edward John Torrens-Spence, second son of Captain P. M. A. Torrens-Spence, DSO, DFC, AFC, RN, and Mrs Torrens-Spence, of the 10th South Devon Co. Army Band, and Miss F. M. J. Darling, daughter of Mr G. A. Darling, of Cresson Lodge, Northampton.

Mr M. J. F. Warner
The engagement is announced between Michael John Pelham Warner, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Jennifer Jane Loman, of Oxford, Surrey.

Mr R. A. Ascoli
The marriage took place yesterday of Mr Richard Ascoli and Mrs Andrew Paul, widow of Mr Douglas Paul.

Birthdays today
Sir Leigh Ashton, 84; Sir Edwin Holland, 83; Sir Ray Aspinall, 78; The Right Rev Dr H. J. Carpenter, 80; Mr Frederick Denny, 76; Mr J. D. B. Smith, 75; Mr J. D. B. Smith, 75; Mr J. D. B. Smith, 75.

Latest wills
£500 left for annual children's party
Mrs Mary May Tinsley, of Wellington, Somerset, left estate valued at £137,063 net. She left £500 to provide the children of Wellington under-16s, near Weston-Wyke, with an annual Christmas party.

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Two years ago the BBC was waiting to hear from the Home Secretary what its licence fee was going to be. It got £24, and it said afterwards that it needed £41.

At the time there has been a sustained campaign for a full £50 colour television licence to last for three years and it is certain nothing would give Sir Ian Trethowan more satisfaction than if that were to be announced next month.

He is about to start his fifth and final year as director-general, he is 52 today and retirement, BBC style, is at 50. So we talked in his third floor office in Broadcasting House about the problems the last four years have brought and the rather better years he believes lie ahead.

There are two secretaries in an outer office but a portable typewriter of the kind he used to carry as a political journalist is on a corner of his large desk. On it he is typing a tribute for a Sunday paper to an old colleague, Bob McKenzie, who died last week. Old habits die hard.

The challenge of a blank piece of paper waiting for some words, the right words, is hard for any journalist to resist.

It is that background that some observers believe has helped him to resist many of the pressures a DG faces. One of the fiercest challenges he has to face is to get his hands on the money that he needs, he thinks, was that it should have service management boards with Home Office appointees on them.

"They would have brought people, outside people, directly appointed by the Government, a further level down into the very heart of the BBC, and I made no secret at the time that I thought it a very dangerous step."

The arguments about the BBC charter, of which that was a part, were his most important pre-occupation.

"I am pleased that from the end of July we have a new charter which gives the BBC continued constitutional existence for 15 years, ensures the safeguards contained in the old charter and gives further and wider flexibility to take advantage of the new opportunities."

Those include the BBC's participation in subscription television, the new Channel 4, and the United States. But he adds: "We must be careful that the commercial opportunities are not allowed to drive the BBC. At best they will provide only a small reinforcement of our income."

"I am all in favour of developing ways of earning money from programmes, but we are financed by the licence fee to make programmes for the British public and that is our function. Let us be clear about that."

"The overriding consideration is that the BBC is secure for another 15 years as an independent public service broadcasting body. For a decade we have lived with uncertainty, twice having our charter extended for short periods over the time Annan was investigating broadcasting. The charter is the most important thing that has happened since the war."

The discussion over the charter and the agreement was both encouraging and constructive, he says, with a considerable degree of understanding on all sides about the BBC's difficulties.

He hopes that the understanding on all sides over the charter will extend to the licence fee, because the BBC could easily slip back into the red unless the full £50 is granted.

Had it been given £41 last time, some of the economies now being made would have been avoided, there would be fewer repeats, fewer American programmes, more afternoon programmes scheduled.

"We are not doing what we would like to do—and we are getting close to say the least, to the point where it is beginning to show on the screen. We are skipping, not just on drama and light entertainment but in areas of journalism. Equipment is not being replaced as it should."

"When you make cuts it is easy to cut on capital and you are then eating the seed corn. The biggest increase in our spending next year will be on capital equipment. We are behind on electronic news gathering, behind on restoring our radio studios."

It is especially sad that local radio is suffering, with no new stations opened this year, while the independents are pushing well ahead.

But there has been the odd plus: not very visible, but useful, like simplifying the running of the BBC, making things more flexible to enable the different bodies involved to fit more easily together.

The point that fails to get across to people, he insists, is that the BBC is publicly financed but it is only half of an industry; the other half is firmly in the private sector. Pay and conditions have got to match because the BBC has to compete.

"If British broadcasting is to stay healthy—and for all its faults it is a considerable national achievement, recognised as such throughout the world—the two systems have got to be in the same league." So it comes down to money, to getting the right fee, getting it for three years and then making the most careful calculations to take account of inflation.

He will have been retired a month when Channel Four comes on the air and he will be sorry to leave. The technological developments to come will require a younger man's energies.

Lunches
HM Government: The Lord Privy Seal was host yesterday at a luncheon at 1 Carlton Gardens given in honour of Signor Virginio Rognoni, Minister of the Interior of Italy.

Mrs G. Miskin: The High Sheriff of Surrey and Mrs George Miskin gave a luncheon to mark the opening of the crown courts at Kingston upon Thames. The guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and judges of the South-East Circuit and their ladies.

Dinners
Speaker: The Speaker gave a dinner at Speaker's House yesterday in honour of the United Methodist Heritage Fellowship. The guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and judges of the South-East Circuit and their ladies.

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Last lap for Sir Ian

When BBC security is a £50 licence fee

By Kenneth Gossling



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The point that fails to get across to people, he insists, is that the BBC is publicly financed but it is only half of an industry; the other half is firmly in the private sector. Pay and conditions have got to match because the BBC has to compete.

"If British broadcasting is to stay healthy—and for all its faults it is a considerable national achievement, recognised as such throughout the world—the two systems have got to be in the same league." So it comes down to money, to getting the right fee, getting it for three years and then making the most careful calculations to take account of inflation.

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"If British broadcasting is to stay healthy—and for all its faults it is a considerable national achievement, recognised as such throughout the world—the two systems have got to be in the same league." So it comes down to money, to getting the right fee, getting it for three years and then making the most careful calculations to take account of inflation.

He will have been retired a month when Channel Four comes on the air and he will be sorry to leave. The technological developments to come will require a younger man's energies.

Lunches
HM Government: The Lord Privy Seal was host yesterday at a luncheon at 1 Carlton Gardens given in honour of Signor Virginio Rognoni, Minister of the Interior of Italy.

Mrs G. Miskin: The High Sheriff of Surrey and Mrs George Miskin gave a luncheon to mark the opening of the crown courts at Kingston upon Thames. The guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and judges of the South-East Circuit and their ladies.

Dinners
Speaker: The Speaker gave a dinner at Speaker's House yesterday in honour of the United Methodist Heritage Fellowship. The guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and judges of the South-East Circuit and their ladies.

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THE ARTS

Television

Defectors' defects

The introductory music to *Defectors* is so portentous that when it follows it is hollow. It reverberates. That was how last night when Tom Mangold, whose urgent voice and diligent mien have accompanied us on more worthwhile journeys, tackled the KGB's activities in the west on BBC 1.

Now it's too much to expect, *Defectors* having been arrested, that the KGB are going to come out in the open, doing a live broadcast from The Centre and saying something like "Never mind Le Carre, Deighton and all that lot, this is my life." In the absence of such frankness, to report on the defections, to dig around the edges, talk to defectors, and former personnel of the CIA (our chips tend to stay taciturn in retirement).

The trouble with such testimony is that, espionage being the no-good business that it has to be by nature, we can never know whether we are, as they say now, being disformed ourselves. This was a very sketchy programme. We hopped from Paris to Vienna, to America, and heard from several gentlemen who had repented their former ways and were prepared to talk about them. It didn't add up to much.

At the beginning Dr Vladimir Sakharov, ex-Soviet diplomat and KGB agent, set the tone when he told us that agents no longer wore baggy trousers. Well I'd guessed that. We'd spot them, wouldn't we? I've thought for some years that Aquisgranum and Austria Road probably have a lot of credit accounts to thank Moscow for.

It wasn't a revelation either to find out that some of these agents hang on to some of the money they're supposed to hand over and also live it up on expensive suits, cars, national, as the devil would gratefully confirm.

So far as brooches and blackmail is concerned, well that really is old stuff. One ex-KGB man brought in an ex-familial touch when he told us that when he was being trained at that famous spy school, he had been exhorted to beware of women and booze. Many a father must have nodded at that.

On BBC2, *Horizon* was in a disenchanted mood, too. "The Grid" set out, somewhat technically for me (they tend to think we're all BSes), what a dangerous farce Grand Prix racing is, with the British continental fix the rules of the game, and how the whole business is one of evading these rules by ingenious technical devices.

It appears that the cars which qualify for that all-important position on the grid are completely different from the cars which actually take up the position. All very reprehensible, especially if you take it as a sport, which I don't.

Dennis Hackett

Dance

Dance Umbrella

The Place, Riverside

It was a busy weekend for conscientious dance watchers. Three choreographers from Europe made their London debuts under the Dance Umbrella, and a new local company too. That is in addition to a Covent Garden matinee where Fiona Chadwick, in the role of *Isadora*, showed a freedom of movement that was more persuasive than her predecessors in the ersatz solos, and a moving passion at the children's death, although she was less able to cope in the ballet's more trivial sequences.

Nobody could call Eva Lundqvist's approach trivial in her choreography for her group, Wind Whistles, from Stockholm. There was a deadly earnest about it, as the dancers rotated with swinging arms and drifted slowly from one part of the stage to another.

After 62 minutes of watching the same few steps given without a break, but without

Harold Gilman,
1876-1919

City Museum and Art
Gallery, Stoke-on-
Trent

Bernard Meninsky,
1891-1950

Blond Fine Art

Pre-Raphaelites and
Academics

Christopher Wood
Gallery

Ghisha Koenig/Sam
Rabin

Wylma Wayne Fine
Art

Camden Town Group" is one of those curious terms in the history of art which seem to proffer more enlightenment than in fact they can deliver. Not that the impression it creates is altogether inaccurate. If we assume from it that the artists concerned quite probably had an interest in drab urban landscapes from vaguely that part of northern London, and perhaps scenes from the everyday life and leisure of its working-class inhabitants, then we should not be so far wrong.

It was not entirely coincidental that they mostly shared a Nineties fascination with the music hall and the deliciously low, and that the most famous of all music halls, the Old Bedford, was located in Camden Town. Nor that a famous murder of a prostitute, which inspired several Sickert paintings and drawings, was known as the Camden Town Murder. Or that several of the group lived at various times in the 1890s in or near Camden Town.

But the suggestion of the group is undoubtedly one of a certain earnestness, a kind of social realism, while the group could be held guilty of neither: as the Post-Impressionism show at the Royal Academy usefully reminded us, they were among the most telling of the Post-Impressionists, with all that implies of brilliant colour and painterly, essentially non-literary painting. Also, if a label of the kind covers a multitude of sins, it may also effectively disguise a multitude of individual virtues. Though it is sensible that the Camden Town painters should be chronicled at least once all together, as a movement (the job has been done definitively in Wendy Baron's enjoyably exhaustive and splendidly illustrated book *The Camden Town Group*), the principal members are as diverse as they are alike, and nearly all

gain from separation and individual examination.

Hence the particular interest and value of the Arts Council's touring exhibition devoted to Harold Gilman, 1876-1919, which is at the new City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, until November 14 (then in York, Birmingham, and finally London early next year). There has always been a suspicion that Gilman might once have been a fellow of the Gorse, Gower, Bevan and Drummond, turn out to be the strongest and most individual of them all. Now at last we have a decent chance to test this notion, and though to be really sure we shall need shows of equivalent scope devoted to each of the rest, it must be said at least that on the present evidence it seems quite likely to be true. We have always tended to read the Camden Town Group as admirable minor artists clustered in the shadow of a major figure, Sickert. Now it looks as though Gilman at least can claim to be a major painter in his own right.

It is certainly amazing how he comes out of this concentrated, isolated scrutiny. Though his working life was short, he develops very far from his solid, traditional beginnings, and with splendid independence. There are, it is true, a few "typical Camden Town" paintings — an atmospheric view of *The Cafe Royal* from 1912 and a tellingly contrasted picture of a working-class *Eating House* from 1913-14, a brightly coloured and rather geometrical image of *Leeds Market* from 1915 which might easily be a Bevan. But mostly we see him out on his own, making his own way in a fashion which calls to mind much more the work of contemporary Continental painters.

There are, for example, some dazzlingly coloured evocations of a trip to Scandinavia in 1912 — all unfamiliar, two to the best, *A Swedish Village* and *The Verandah*, Sweden, borrowed back from Canada, and a third, *The Kippers*, Sweden, from South Africa, which is not readily mistakable for that of anyone else. It is very difficult to think who else in England, for instance, would have produced a portrait as superbly confident in its fluid handling of paint, its bold splashes of First Russian Ballet Period colour, as the *Mr Robert Bevan* around 1913, or indeed at any other time. It makes the business of contemporary Augustus Johns look hollow. And there



The Artist's Mother Writing in Bed, by Harold Gilman, probably painted in 1917.

are other singular traits which can be remarked in painting after painting, variously displayed: his passion for and mastery of red, for instance, which shows most conspicuously in the unfinished *An Eating House* (1913-14), where the whole composition is laid down in red line first of all, or the odd iconographical detail that most of the women he ever painted were posed with the head "that awkward, awkward way inclined", suggesting at once submission and abstraction. It must also be said that the drawings, with latterly their curious construction of dots and fine lines, are finer

than any colourists have the right to be. Altogether, the show is a revelation.

Back in London, another show which is revelatory has arrived at Blond Fine Art in Backville Street: the retrospective devoted to Bernard Meninsky. I wrote about it at length on its opening at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, but since then some paintings have been subtracted and some added, and the emphasis of the whole is more clearly on those later Miltonic pastorals in which, during the 1940s, the painter found his most distinctive voice. The combination of Romantic angst and Classical

Concerts

LSO/Abbado

Festival Hall/Radio 3

We may call them the bread-and-butter classics, but they do not have to sound so humdrum. On Sunday, when Alfred Brendel, the London Symphony Orchestra and Claudio Abbado began a series of concert seasons, the results were far from the common run.

The first concerto (as we call it, though actually it was the third composed by Beethoven) has a military gait to its opening movement, popular in Europe at that time. Abbado and Brendel agreed that rhythms should be taut and muscular, absolutely precise, and Abbado took it rather fast. Beyond that, they both, Brendel visibly working hand-in-glove with the LSO, found sonorities and points of musical fiction, nuance and balance that sounded completely fresh, as if nobody before had heard the music in that light. Yet all was perfectly in the style of Beethoven's youth, and *au pied de la lettre*.

Brendel, in the first movement, played the third of Beethoven's own tanzdances for it, the longest, and made a grand event of it: usually in performance it seems too big for the movement's mood, but not here; so vividly had the themes been presented and developed that it was clearly desirable to hear Beethoven's further thoughts about them.

The slow movement was remarkable for the marvelously poetic duet between piano and clarinet (Jack Brymer, glorious), the rondo for sparkling verve, especially in the A minor episode *alla turca*.

When Beethoven introduced his fourth piano concerto, he is reported to have played it impetuously and at great speed. Not so Brendel: from first to last he was intent on the calm lyric poetry in the music, able to extend on the one hand to flights of extraordinary fancy, in the third subject of the first movement, for example, different at each appearance, on the other to purposeful drama, as in the lesser known of Beethoven's two cadenzas, momentarily expounded by Brendel. Again the orchestral accompaniment was treated as something

much more important and symphonic, a worthy companion for such a solo piano part.

Between them came Beethoven's second symphony, another purposeful reading, a handsomely conceived and executed, mercifully less momentous in effect, for enjoyment rather than astonishment.

William Mann

Segovia

Festival Hall

It is late in the day for any new discoveries in the artistry of Andres Segovia, although those in a full attendance who may have heard him in person for the first time on Sunday afternoon should count themselves fortunate. At the age of 87 he can still spellbind an audience with a concentration that is a rare thing in a man playing, although in so large a hall it cannot be entirely the intimate, immediate experience such music should afford.

The grandfather figure to the 34 contestants in the Segovia International Guitar competition held at Leeds Castle in Kent a week or so previously, and since last June newly ennobled as Marquis of Salobrena (taking his title from the town in Granada, where he grew up), Segovia cherishes the guitar's traditional virtues. In an age which has seen and heard them debased beyond belief, he has shown that style and technique need never be compromised to those who seek its true fascination.

In the course of this programme he explored beyond the guitar's original repertoire to demonstrate that, for instance, the keyboard sonatas of Domenico Scarlatti may have an equivalent yet different character in terms of the guitar.

Its range and variety of timbre were displayed with consummate skill in a theme and variations by Fernando Sor, as in a more recent counterpart, two *Mediterranean Impressions* by Oscar Espla, with intriguing shifts of focus.

The two impressions belong to that large and varied assortment of original music for the guitar either written

for Segovia in the first instance of which his enduring influence in this branch of music has directly brought about.

Noel Goodwin

Annie Fischer

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Nothing in Annie Fischer's piano recital on Sunday afternoon was more imaginative in conception, or beguiling in sonority, than Schubert's second set of Impromptus D935, chosen to end her programme.

It takes very special artistry to bring up music so familiar like a new discovery. But this she did, at times with almost improvisational spontaneity and fancy, miraculously deepening romantic uncertainty with a gossamer lightness of touch. Even unusually flexible rhythm in the extended first piece in F minor served far to poetic an end to be questioned. And rarely can the caprice of No. 4 have emerged with more marvellous, dancing grace.

She began with Beethoven's E major sonata, Op.109, betraying the disadvantage of retaining a young and vulnerable heart in a few fluffs and moments of unclear articulation (notably in the second movement) obviously due to nervousness. These she offset with a warmth and strength of conviction triumphantly upholding St Paul's evaluation of letter and spirit. The fervour she drew from the finale without undue soulfulness remains her own special secret. As for its two spirited contrapuntal variations, they showed her fingers at their sturdiest.

Her centre-piece was Schumann's C major Phantasie, Op.17, long one of her favourites, whose "brilliantly passionate first movement she played no less ardently and urgently than when recording the work a decade or two ago; now and again she even showed too much Hungarian temperament in sharpness of tempo change. Though episodic texture could sometimes have been lighter, the march theme of the central march was always resplendent, and her assault on the dare-devil coda bold if not flawless.

Joan Chissell

Rock

The Clash

Lyceum

repose (not for nothing was one of Meninsky's favourite painters Masaccio) has a hauntingly unsettling effect, and the colours just glow from the walls. The show is on until November 7, and should not be missed.

Looking even farther back, Christopher Wood has unearthed some very remarkable Pre-Raphaelites and Academics for his autumn show in Motcomb Street (till November 6). There is charm just clear of the kitsch in pieces like Philip Richard Morris's *The Bridesmaid* (chubby Victorian child in a bridal veil) and others on the "academic" side, but for those desirous of sterner stuff the pre-Raphaelite contingent offer such rare delights as a long-lost John Brett, *The Hedge*, one of Frederick Sandys's little-known oil paintings, *Queen Eleanor*, and, best of all, an amazing tiny Burne-Jones in his late symbolic manner, *Sunset and Corn*, which seems poised equidistant between Blake and Van Gogh. This last has just been snapped up by the Tate — and quite right too.

Finally, two happily unfashionable artists, most unlike, who are showing side by side at Wylma Wayne's Old Bond Street October 30. Ghisha Koenig does monumental bronzes small: that is to say, her subjects are usually man at work in factories and light industry, the kind of thing which one would expect to be hymning the dignity of labour on an heroic scale, but instead these lively and intricate compositions are kept down to intimately human terms and realized as dimensional pictures suitable for quite a small interior wall, or to take up no more of a tabletop than a lamp might. The effect is amazingly understated and strikingly attractive. Sam Rabin is a painter who was a boxer of Olympic standard in the early 1930s, and has specialized in boxing scenes. But his works are not just "sporting pictures": atmosphere reigns supreme, the details of the ring are implied rather than stated, and he has one of the most refined senses of colour and subtle, almost Japanese ways with pictorial composition of anyone now painting in this country. Paintings in the present show like *Out and Boxing Match* make a comparison with Laurence seem not at all far-fetched, nor is Rabin at all outclassed by such distinguished company.

John Russell Taylor

Apart from producing the best and most varied triple album in rock, *Sandinista*, apart from developing a distinct and romantic production style which has already brought out the brilliant album, atrociously under-valued and underplayed by Britain's disc jockeys, *Ellen Foley's Spirit of St. Louis*, apart from establishing and holding a beach-head for England's new wave in New York City, and being one of only two surviving original groups from 1976, The Clash clearly feel they have debts to their original public.

For their return to London they have chosen to give a series of concerts in the Lyceum on the Strand where dancing is part of the house style and where they are still in touch with the crowd. Not that their new show would disappear in a larger hall for they have come back with one of the most visually extravagant acts in rock. Pulsating lights range across the stage and occasionally flood the Lyceum, slide collages of news events, newspaper pages and people illustrate their songs and an action-painter could Futura scrambles across the screen with spray paints as if decorating a New York subway train.

Under such a barrage of visual imagery most bands would either pale or else pound on repetitiously. Without augmenting their basic sound of two guitars, bass and drums, except electronically and vocally, The Clash overpower the visuals and range for more than two hours over an extraordinarily varied and occasionally surprising repertoire. From pop to reggae and to disco rap, the music is unrelentingly charged by the drums of Topper Headon and the base of Paul Simonon. The quality of unimpeded coupling of music and image is constantly driving rhythms buries some of the new lyrics, but in fact the vocal strengths of the band have increased since they last appeared in England.

Political commitment is the through-line of all their major music, or perhaps it is best described as social concern, for they offer commentaries rather than prescriptions. What is obvious, even as they force the words into different rhythms, is that they are now one of the most musically and artistically sophisticated bands in rock. While they look much as they did when they left England, they have grown significantly.

Ned Chaillet

London debuts

diver gestures, more exhibitionistic even, especially at the conclusion of the Gigue. Miss Mariotti's style is calm, poised and communicative, rather than grandiloquent; as she pursues her career she may find that she needs to harness more extrovert qualities, without I hope sacrificing anything of the charm of her own manner.

A slight stiffness at the beginning of Hummel's Flute Sonata in D major, Op. 50, soon relaxed into a lyrical reading of the work in Bruno Meier's recital with Roger Brügger. Even more impressive was an elegantly phrased Sonata in E minor, "Undine", Op. 167, by Carl Reineck; the

fervour and sound technical base of Mr Brügger's piano playing contributed in no small measure to a lively performance. Three short movements for solo flute by Peter Mig, entitled *Les Plaisirs de Rued* called for a variety of effects from Mr Meier, from sustained phrases to precipitous passage-work. Mr Brügger also has a sort solo: Honnegger's *Six Pieces Breves*; his account of these elliptical, enigmatic pieces, also exploring contrasting moods, had the concentration necessary for their effect. Prokofiev's Sonata, Op. 94, ended somewhat cautiously.

Barry Millington

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North Sea
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Business News

THE TIMES Tuesday October 20 1981

60 YEARS OF
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Upturn in High St sales 'unlikely'

By David Blake
Economic Editor

Trade in the High Street slackened slightly in September, continuing the gradual downward trend which started in the spring. The index for retail sales published by the Department of Trade fell 1 per cent in September to stand at 1101, after adjusting for inflation and seasonal factors.

An upturn in retail sales is now unlikely before the second half of 1982, warned Mr Bob Lloyd-Jones, Director General of the Retail Consortium. "We have had the manufacturing recession but now the consumer recession is setting in," he added that the squeeze on disposable income was the key factor.

However, despite the slow slide through the middle of the year, the volume of retail sales in the three months up to the end of September was higher than at any time in 1980, though it did drop one per cent below the figure reached in the first quarter of the year.

The figures showing a drop in retail sales, at first sight, seem inconsistent with other official statistics, suggesting that the economy touched bottom at some point during the summer.

Both sales figures and production figures, however, have been heavily influenced by attempts by retailers and manufacturers to turn down their stocks over the past 18 months.

Retailers have cut prices dramatically to keep demand up, which means that total retail sales have held up remarkably well during the worst recession since the war.

The real living standards of those in work were boosted by big pay rises in 1979 and are only now being squeezed seriously by inflation outstripping pay increases.

Some of the pressure to reduce stocks eased during the summer, which may have led to less price-cutting, and fewer sales in the shops. At the same time, manufacturers started to rely less on running down stocks to meet orders.

Over the next year falling real earnings and high interest rates are expected to put a double squeeze on the retail sector.

On the retail trade job front, Mr Lloyd-Jones also warned that with retail sales running in value terms at 3 per cent below the Retail Price Index rise, the retail sector's position as a key employer and source of investment was at risk through lack of profitability. (Derek Harris writes).

Opec close to accord on higher prices

By Edward Townsend

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is close to an agreement to renege on a price agreement around a higher base price of \$34 (£17.80) per barrel.

In meetings between oil ministers of the countries involved, all but the North African producers seem to have agreed to Saudi Arabia's suggestion for bringing the present spectrum of prices closer together.

Speaking after a meeting with his opposite number from Dubai, Dr Subroto, Indonesia's oil minister, who is also this year's Opec president, said that there was now a "good chance" that enough agreement would be reached to hold an extraordinary meeting to decide the issue well before the Opec regular December meeting. Oil experts in London are predicting that October 28 in Geneva is a strong possibility.

If oil prices are unified around a Saudi Arabian price of \$34—an increase of \$2—it is likely that United Kingdom petrol prices could rise again, possibly by 1p per gallon.

The effect on British Government revenues would be substantial, as the government earlier this year reduced prices to them with Saudi levels. As \$2 increase could bring the revenue an extra £450m in a full year.

Oil ministers from Algeria, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela will be attending the North-South political summit at Capri on Thursday and Friday and a decision on an extraordinary Opec meeting.

Soviet Union increases gold sales to West

By Michael Prest, Commodities Correspondent

Soviet gold sales to the West appear to have gathered pace in recent months according to market sources in London. It is possible that net Soviet bullion exports in 1981 will exceed last year's 90 tonnes.

But the same sources also report that, unless the increase is substantial in the second half of this year, Soviet sales are unlikely to be a big factor in the market. In present estimates, the total value of the record 410 tonnes sold in 1978, and probably less than 1979's 199 tonnes.

Estimates of likely Soviet sales this year range from 60 to 150 tonnes. Some sources are inclined towards the lower end of that range.

The main reason for scepticism about increased Soviet gold exports is based on the country's foreign exchange position not looking much weaker than it was in 1980. The balance of trade—current account deficit has deteriorated from 406m roubles (£111m) in the first half of 1980 to £2,835m in the same period of 1981.

But Russia's net external foreign exchange assets at the end of last year were about \$5,000m (£2,717m).

Against this, another poor harvest has sent Soviet buyers around the world in search of grain. Some market experts believe it would make sense for the Soviet Union to raise extra foreign exchange now while gold prices are reasonably stable at about \$440 an ounce.

Employee consortium to take over Britain's biggest lorry fleet £53.5m 'knock-down' price for NFC

By Michael Daily, Transport Correspondent

The Government is to hand over the state-owned National Freight Company to an employee cooperative, at a knock-down price of £53.5m. But the sale is dependent on the 25,000 staff finding at least £3m out of their own pockets by the new year. If they fail, the deal will fall through.

The remaining £50m, plus working capital of up to £20m, will be provided by a consortium led by Barclays Merchant Bank, together with Barclays, County, Lloyds, National Westminster, and Williams and Glyn's banks.

A Barclays spokesman said yesterday that under one of two possible schemes of financing the bank would be "totally unsecured" and this was a measure of the bank's confidence in the venture.

They were, however, going ahead on a strictly commercial rather than a sentimental basis: "We have taken a hard look at prospects of profitability and would not have been happy to proceed unless they were confident of sufficient profit to secure their resources."

Mr Peter Thompson, 53-year-old chief executive of the NFC and chief architect of the scheme, described it as a "transcendent success".

Operating Britain's biggest lorry fleet with about 7 per cent of the market, the NFC was expected to realize about £70m when the Government put it on the privatization list last year, but the value has fallen because of the continuing recession in road haulage.

More than 500 staff meetings have been held since the idea was put up in June. Mr Thompson said, and as a result the top managers were expected to contribute an average of £25,000 each, which some would have to borrow.

The next 100 senior managers were expected to put up £6,000 to £8,000 each, and about 2,000 middle managers £1,500 to £1,600 each.

He himself would be putting up £40,000 which he said, he would not be doing without confidence that the company would meet its commitments and head for growth.

A £2m fund has been arranged by the consortium, from which staff will be able to borrow up to £200 interest free for a year to buy shares. More was available.

"Now it is all up to us," he said. "While I do not underestimate the task of raising at least £3m, the response we have already had gives me confidence that managers, staff, and pensioners will jump at this unique opportunity to buy their own company and share in the wealth they are helping to create. Indeed we have good reason to believe we will raise considerably more."

The group includes the Pickfords removal firm, nationalized by Labour immediately after the war; British Road Services haulage fleets; National Carriers, which hires out lorries to companies such as Marks and Spencer; and other subsidiaries in warehousing, travel and waste disposal.

The group made an operating profit of £20m and an overall profit of £2m in 1979, and an operating profit of £10m and overall loss of £7m in the first nine months of last year, when the financial structure changed. Mr Thompson said it was currently making a profit.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Albert Booth, shadow transport secretary, said: "This sale represents a miserably inadequate financial return to the public for the loss of a well-managed and well-equipped key transport asset. Only £6.5m will be paid to the Treasury for a company with trading profits of £12m in 1979 and £10m in 1980, and in which there has been over £32m invested last year."

Three of the group's four trade unions supported the deal. The fourth, the Transport and General Workers' Union, opposed it because of its stand against privatization, but has not instructed its members not to take part.

In a parliamentary statement, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, said: "With this sale, a major road haulage company is transferred in good running order to the private sector where it belongs. The managers and employees acquire a business which they are confident they can run successfully and competitively, entirely free from government control and no longer dependent in any way on public finance."

Malaysia bids for tin holding

By Michael Prest

Malaysia took another step towards dominating its tin industry yesterday when Farmland National Berhad, the Malaysian national equity corporation, bid 450p a share for the 20.5 per cent minority holding in Amalgamated Metal Corporation.

The bid was by 150p a share last Wednesday's offer for the minority from Preussag, the German metal company which owns the other 79.5 per cent of AMC. The new offer values AMC at £35m and has been described by AMC's four independent directors as a "fair and reasonable offer".

Mr Tony Sylvester, one of the directors, said that they would be writing to shareholders soon.

AMC owns just over half of the giant tin smelter in Penang which is one of Malaysia's biggest export earners. Last year Malaysia and Singapore contributed 77 per cent of AMC's £8m trading profits, and most of the region's earnings came from the smelter.

The AMC price rose 146p to 550p, well above the 303p at which the shares stood before Preussag's offer last week. The bank's brokers were L. Messel, and Morgan Grenfell are advising the minority.

Malaysia has recently merged the Malayan Mining Corporation and Malayan Tin Dredging to form the world's biggest tin mining company. AMC has 4 per cent of the merged group.

The £65 per cent increase in the tin price agreed on Saturday at the International Tin Council meeting also owed much to Malaysian pressure. The buffer stock intervention range is now MS29.15 to MS37.89 a kilogramme.

Sir Geoffrey also invited his fellow ministers to determine which, if any, major risks should be exempted from the proposed liberal approach to large-scale business.

M & S shows £17.1m profits rise

By Our Financial Staff

Marks and Spencer, the leading High Street store group, yesterday reported a £17.1m increase in pre-tax profits for the first half of its financial year ended in September, giving a total of £86m. At the same time Mothercare, the maternity and children's clothing group, announced a £15m fall in pre-tax profits.

In the United Kingdom the M & S stores saw sales of £550m against £503m on the clothing side, while turnover in food climbed to £340m against £285m, an increase of 19.1 per cent.

Total sales of the group, including exports and those of its European and Canadian operations, came to £963m, a rise of 13.5 per cent on the first half of the 1980-81 financial year.

The group is increasing its half-yearly dividend from 1.5p net a share to 1.75p. In the stock market the shares of M & S closed at 107p, down 3p.

Despite the fall in the share price, M & S profits were better than City analysts had been expecting. They compared with first half figures last year which were unduly depressed and represented the first decline in M & S profits.

The company's Canadian operations showed a reduced loss of £800,000 against a loss of £900,000 in the first half of the previous financial year. In Europe, profits for the six months were £11m against £900,000.

City analysts yesterday suggested the group could make around £200m pre-tax profits for the full year compared with £181m in 1980-81.

The fall in the profits of Mothercare to £5.5m from £8.1m was expected. The main reason was the deterioration in trading conditions in the United States where losses worsened from £48,000 to £1.1m.

Eighteen months ago Mothercare embarked on an ambitious expansion programme in the United States. In the six months to September 23, Mothercare stores were opened and five Mother-to-toe shops were closed as planned. The group will have about 200 units operating by the end of the current financial year.

Total turnover of existing stores in the United States rose by 44 per cent to £9.9m, but the sales of those shops already operating for the full six months were static. The result was that the group was hit by rising costs and high interest charges.

The company has been forced to change its policy and plans to inject about \$15m (£8.1m) into the American operations to place them on a more secure footing.

In the United Kingdom, the company's sales were virtually static at £65.7m. Turnover for the European operations fell 19 per cent to £8.1m. Trading profits fell 20 per cent to £6.4m. There was a surplus on the disposal of properties of £211,000.

Stores were opened in the United Kingdom at Crawley, Cumbernauld, Dumfries, Rugby and Southport. The total number of stores at the end of the half-year was 417 against 580 in September 1980.

The group declared an unchanged interim dividend of 1.62p net a share.

Financial Editor, page 21

Lovable calls in receivers

By Margaret Pagan

Lovable, the privately owned women's underwear manufacturer, yesterday called in receivers after a decision by its bank to withdraw financial backing.

Mr Christopher Morris, one of the joint receivers appointed from Touche Ross, the accountancy firm, said that Barclays was unable to support the company further. The extent of Lovable's losses and its outstanding borrowings have not been disclosed but the company is believed to have been running into financial trouble for a number of years.

The jobs of 530 staff are at risk. About 430 are employed by Lovable, and Pagan, its manufacturing arm, at a factory in Cumbernauld, near Glasgow, and 100 at the headquarters, Romford, Essex. At present the group, which sells under the Lovable trade mark, will continue trading as normal.

Interest has already been shown by prospective buyers both in the United Kingdom and from abroad, and the receivers hope to have some ideas for the group's future by early next week.

Lovable-Pagan jointly owned by Lovable of Atlanta, Georgia, which holds 50 per cent and Mr Alex Pelican the founder, and his wife, who each hold 25 per cent.

Meanwhile, the fate of 1,500 jobs at Blackwood, Morton of Kilmarlock, the Ayrshire carpet maker which called in receivers last week, is still unclear.

Mortgage bargains

E H Bradley Estates, a Swindon-based building company, is offering a 94 per cent mortgage rate to new home buyers, fixed for 18 months.

The offer applies to houses reserved by January 31, although the period may be extended. Contracts must be exchanged within six weeks of reservation.

A spokesman said: "The increase in mortgage interest rates has virtually killed the new house market stone dead. We have to do something to restore buyers' confidence."

ICL confirms Mitel deal

ICL has confirmed that it has signed an agreement with the Canadian-based company Mitel to market its Private Automatic Branch Exchange (PABX) of up to 10,000 lines, which will be made at the new Mitel factory in Newport, Gwent.

ICL has named Mr Robin Biggam as its new finance director.

TODAY

Provisional figures on unemployment and unfilled vacancies; trade figures for September; new construction orders for August.

The International Business Show opens at the National Exhibition Centre, near Birmingham.

Herr Karl-Otto Pochl, president of the Deutsche Bundesbank, speaks at the Conference Board luncheon, Hilton Hotel, London.

Companies reporting their results include Ductile Steels and Peachey Property.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Training for the bar

A British Institute of In-

keeping has been formed to improve standards of public house management, establish minimum standards of training and experience, and a code of professional conduct.

Backing the institute are the Brewers' Society, the National Association of Licensed House Managers, the National Union

of Licensed Victuallers and the Hotel and Catering Industry Training Board.

The price of a pint is going up by about 4p in 850 East Anglian pubs. The Norwich brewery is putting 2p on whole-sale prices, and most pub-licans are expected to add another 2p to cover rising costs.

A HAVEN FOR SCIENTISTS

A research park which could attract scientists from all over the world is being planned by Surrey University.

Nothing would be manufactured on the 69-acre campus site at Guildford. The park is intended for pure research—a haven for scientists.

The plan is to lease out areas of land to scientific institutes and companies, a university spokesman said. "There would be a clear advantage in being located alongside a university."

Mule trains

Thos. W. Ward (Railway Engineers) of Sheffield will supply 11m of railway track, switches and crossings for a central loading system at Shell's Haven Refinery in Stanfords-Hope, Essex. Trains will be controlled by a computerized mule handling system.

Seven industrialists from the Frankfurt area of West Germany are touring factories in Northern Ireland to study investment possibilities. The province has eight German companies with a total investment of £40m, providing jobs for about 1,000 workers.

Rediffusion wins Siberia order

The Soviet Ministry of Gas has placed an order worth £7.5m with Rediffusion Computers for the supply of terminals and computer systems for use in the planned Siberian gas pipeline.

Forty-six Rediffusion computers and hundreds of terminals will be supplied for generating maintenance reports on the pipeline.

John Laing Construction has won a £800,000 contract to build foundations and underground services for the office block at the Esso cracker plant at Moss, near Cheadle, Cheshire. Esso Chemicals says the contract will employ 80 people at its peak.

Car imports

The Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders will meet in London on November 25 and 26 to resume talks on Japanese penetration of the British market. Both sides will continue working towards a marketing policy which avoids provoking official restraints.

Unemployment in Belgium has climbed to a record 408,052, or 9.8 per cent of the work force.

Guarantee for Egyptian loan

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £20m loan which Midland Bank has made available to Mir Investment Company of Egypt.

The loan will help finance a £33m contract awarded to Cementation International by

Insurance chief quits

Mr Timothy Royle, group managing director of Hoggs Robinson, one of the leading insurance brokers, yesterday left the group where he had worked for 30 years.

Mr John Potts, the financial director, said Mr Royle, aged 50, had left on mutually agreed terms. "It was not a matter of questions over policy but one of differences over how management was approached and tackled."

He added that it was a reasonable assumption that Mr Royle would receive a handshake commensurate with his long service. Mr Morris Abbott, the chairman, is now responsible for group management.

Women only -by order

Bristol Polytechnic has received permission to run women-only management training courses. Without the designation order signed yesterday by Mr Michael Allison, Minister of State for Employment, the polytechnic would have been in breach of the Sex Discrimination Act.

The courses, starting on Thursday, are designed to help women already in employment to enter work at managerial level, or to achieve promotion to higher levels of management, and will cover areas such as decision-making, communications skills and increasing confidence.

Move to resolve shipyard dispute

British Shipbuilders and union leaders are to hold fresh talks next Monday in an effort to resolve the three-week-old dispute over the future of the Robb Caledon shipyard in Dundee.

Talks were adjourned at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service last night for another week. The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions has lifted the yard has remained occupied by its 140-strong workforce since it was officially closed a month ago.

UNKINDEST CUT

Workers who are calling for a 15 per cent pay rise have been offered a cut of 5 per cent by their employers, the Nottingham-based Hosiery and Knitwear Federation.

Stock Markets

FT Index 464.3 up 0.9

FT 100 61.32 up 0.20

FT all share index 281.75 down 0.37

Bargains 14,517

Sterling

\$1.8410 up 70 points

Index 88.0 up 0.6

New York: \$1.8305

Dollar

Index 108.2 down 0.2

DM 2.2322 down 58 pts

Gold

\$436.00 up \$1.00

New York: \$436.20

Money

3 mth sterling 161-162

3 mth Euro \$ 161-161

3 mth sterling 161-161

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Amal Metal 146p to 554p

Anglia TV "A" 4p to 84p

Asian Front Teal 15p to 212p

Cm O'sea Teal 15p to 200p

CEC 5p to 67p

Glaxo 16p to 390p

LWT Bids "A" 6p to 106p

Ldn & Prov Shop 7p to 352p

Rosshaugh 15p to 260p

Satchi 5p to 285p

Scottish TV "A" 4p to 78p

Ud Scientific 5p to 438p

Falls

Aurora Bids 2p to 145p

British Ship 3p to 25p

Broken Hill 30p to 620p

CRK 6p to 193p

Charter Cons 8p to 213p

Cons Gold Fields 9p to 480p

Harrison Cons 15p to 775p

Hill & Smith 5p to 42p

Office & Elec 10p to 280p

RTZ 10p to 275p

Standard Tel 10p to 275p

Unitich 8p to 195p

Mothercare

everything for the mother-to-be and her baby... and children up to ten.

INTERIM RESULTS

(26 weeks—unaudited)

25th Sept. 26th Sept.

1981 1980 Movement

Sales (excluding VAT)

UK 55,675 66,676 (2)

Europe 8,107 10,031 (19)

USA 9,950 6,888 44

83,732 83,595 -

Trading Profit

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Capitalizing the future

The government's announcement that it is to sell off a majority stake in BNOG and British Gas oil interests is motivated partly by ideology and partly by pressure to cut back the expected overshoot on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR). But as one of the leading advocates of the untrammelled free market in the Cabinet, Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary must know the timing of the asset sales is far from perfect. The total worth of BNOG as estimated by Wood McKenzie, brokers, between £1,600m and £2,400m. This implies that the Exchequer could benefit by say £1,200m from the sale of the production and exploration facilities, with a further £300m or so deriving from British Gas operations in the North Sea plus the Wytch Field.

Despite the prolonged bear market in oil shares and the continuing pressure on crude prices during the recession, the City still seems to be confident that the prospective sale of part of BNOG and British Gas production and exploration interests will be as well received as any parts of the Government's denationalization portfolio. Admittedly the oil game has changed radically in the last year and the Government will not be able to raise anywhere near as much as it could have done. But the sheer quality and breadth of both British Gas's and BNOG's portfolios, and gas assets should make the sale sometime next year an enticing proposition.

But had the BNOG sell-off been brought forward a year, values according to oil analysts, would have been some 25 per cent higher. As it is, a majority stake in BNOG is likely to be offered at a time when the present glut and weak prices will have stretched a further 12 months. So given the wild fluctuations in exchange rates and the prospect of further splits in the OPEC cartel, there is very little for investors to chew on in the way of hard facts at present.

Possible renationalization by a future Labour administration, especially of such a sensitive area as energy, will dampen some investors' enthusiasm. But there is little doubt that the whole private sector of the North Sea will be strengthened by BNOG's new status, particularly after the way it has started to speak out against Government oil taxation policy.

For M & S, the climb in half-year pretax profits looks impressive, moving up by £17.1m to £86m. But the comparison is with a 1980 figure that represented the first decline in profits at M & S. So, perhaps, M & S results should be set against the 1979 pretax profits of £77 rather than last year's £69m. That said, however, the latest set of figures encouraging. One of the principal reasons lies in a 13.9 per cent increase in total sales to £963.1m. Within that the bulk has come from the United Kingdom operations where clothing and other merchandise have risen by 9.4 per cent to £550m and foods by no less than 19.1 per cent to £340.5m.

The figure for the foods side is particularly remarkable given the recession and the decline in disposable incomes. M & S has obviously overcome the problems of a year or two ago and managed to hit the right blend of price and quality in the specialty market it aims at. The story is nearly the same in the clothing activities, but some of the increase in volume has been won through price reductions.

Overseas the picture is patchy with the losses on the Canadian operations being reduced by £300,000 to £600,000, but Europe increasing its contribution from £300,000 to £1.1m, thanks principally to Dublin and Brussels. For the current half year, which has not got off to a particularly good start, the question must remain whether the group will be able to maintain market shares in face sharp reductions in consumer income. Still, M & S should achieve pretax profits of around £200m against £181m.

At Mothercare, pretax profits came out at £6.6m, a fall of £1.5m. The problem area continues to be the United States where an ambitious expansion plan is running into problems of greater severity than the management must originally have expected. For sales might be up 44 per cent but that was only thanks to the opening of new units, and in fact turnover in established stores was static. With cost continuing to rise, it is therefore hardly surprising the American operations saw losses mount from £348,000 to £1.1m.

But Mothercare is not planning a repeat of the exercise in Japan where it pulled out after only six weeks. Instead it is injecting some \$15m into the United States company from the home base, a change in policy, in an effort to put the operations on a sound capitalised basis.

In the United Kingdom margins are under pressure with sales virtually static at £65.7m and trading profits down nearly by a fifth to £7.2m. Mothercare suffered here from some slow moving stock but staff savings have helped to offset that somewhat. M & S finished at 107p, down 3p, where the historic yield is 5.1 per cent. Those of Mothercare were also off on the day at 154p, which puts them on an historic yield of 3.6 per cent.

Periods of rising interest rates are rarely good news for the discount houses; and this summer, with all its false dawns on falling dollar interest rates, has probably provided as many potential bull traps for the unwary as we have seen for some time. As far as Gerrard & National's first half (the six months to October 5) is concerned, it has been a period when it has been possible to make a profit, but only a small one and way down on the comparable period of 1980. Although there were parts of the period when margins were extremely good, the inexorable rise of interest rates finally took its toll. Three month eligible bill rates, for instance rose 4 1/2 per cent over the period. The company is sticking to last year's policy and leaving the dividend unchanged at the interim stage, though the group will presumably be hoping to take advantage of an eventual fall in interest rates before the year end. In that context today's trade figures, and the market's reaction, may offer a clue as to whether United Kingdom rates can yet be taken as having peaked.

● The financial health of the corporate sector continued to improve in the second quarter of the year. The net borrowing requirement of the sector continued to give way to a net repayment of £2,978m. Improving profits provided part of the explanation but by far the most important internal factor continued to be heavy destocking, the fall in stocks and work in progress being of roughly the same order as the first quarter at £1,389m. The overall position, however, is made to look rather rosier than was really the case thanks to a large external factor, namely the failure of civil servants to pull in tax. This may have benefited companies' positions by anywhere between £1,500m and £2,000m. Whether through the collection of back tax or a slowdown in destocking, companies are clearly set to be borrowing again from here on.

Retailing

Contrasting results

Yesterday's retail sales figures provided little encouragement for the retailing sector, with the underlying trend, so far as it is possible to see, now on a downward trend. The figures came at the same time as very contrasting results from two of Britain's leading High Street groups with those from Marks & Spencer better than anticipated and those from Mothercare a touch worse than feared.

Business Diary: Romans in the gloaming

Rome. Quando sei a Roma, fa quello che i Romani fanno — When in Rome, do as Romans do, is a saying of infinitely more allure than Sea Naples and Die. But what exactly is it that in Rome you do as Romans do?

At first I thought it was just the same as what you were doing wherever you came from, for in being warned about Rome's pickpockets, I was told: "Be as careful as you are at home."

This caution came from Tomaso Tomba, United Kingdom director of the Italian State Tourist Board, although Tomba's family, is from Bologna and he was born in Stockholm.

Ines Farina, who in Rome represents CTT the state tour operator, told me: "Leave your valuables in the hotel safe and don't take any

money out with you unless you are going shopping — also your passport and, above all, your Alitalia ticket."

These precautions sound more Roman by the moment, Miss Farina added. "Be careful of gypsies. There seem to be a large number of gypsies, especially in the centre of Rome."

"They're not really harmful, but they will probably try to come round you and steal some money from you."

I duly kept out of the gypsies' way — and they mine, for gypsies saw I none. My goods were safe, except for a small Alitalia or their agents who did in the zip on my bag and obliged me to go shopping for another.

A newcomer to Rome, I wondered I might blend in better with the Romans if on the way to the shops I could contrive to pinch a few bottoms, preferably non-Romany ones.

But that, according to Ann Austin — whose bottom, I hasten to add, I did not assay, is now considered a practice more of ancient than of modern Rome.

"A woman can move about on her own in Rome without that sort of trouble nowadays," said Mrs Austin, who runs Austin's Travel Agency in Birmingham and is president of the local Skat (travel executives' Club).

Mrs Austin, she says, might be the first to feel the pinch were this still a Roman "do" rather than a "don't". I ventured to observe as much, and she seemed to think this a most reasonable attitude.



Christian Democrat Flaminio Piccoli: Bettino si, Enrico no.

Her suggestion for doing as Romans do was "Steer clear of the gypsy taxi drivers at the airport — they're not to be trusted, either with the fares or with women."

This I know to be a reasonable attitude, for even as we spoke, there tottered into the hotel a poor English lady — poorer at any rate than when she landed at Fiumicino airport — who had not taken a registered, yellow cab. Harmed only in the purse, she had been charged about £34 for the trip, over twice the rate.

Money again figured in the Roman "do" when called on Luigi Pieraccioni, general secretary of the Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce.

Pieraccioni is telling his members in Rome and elsewhere: "Peg the shop prices of 20 basic foods for the next

The British National Oil Corporation's oil producing assets in the North Sea were constructed around the wreckage of a private company, rescued by the state. Now they, or at least a majority share in them, are to be handed back to the private sector together with the oil assets of the British Gas Corporation, which British Gas fought so bitterly to prevent becoming part of BNOG's dowry.

It is a peculiar irony which is bound to add to the violence of the political reaction to the statement by Mr Nigel Lawson, the new Secretary of State for Energy, and intensify the rancour felt by the exploration teams so carefully built up in the Corporation.

For the Government's determination to sell off the state oil assets in the North Sea represents much more than the most dramatic move yet to raise funds for the public sector, although the market value of those assets amounts to well over £3,000m. It also suggests the most far-reaching change yet in the position of the state in the country's most valuable resource.

British Gas has been in North Sea exploration since the beginning, mostly as a partner with the American Standard Oil of Indiana group. It now holds a share in oil producing fields, or fields being made ready for production, as well as four main gas fields.

Although it undoubtedly owes some of its position to the preference which state corporations were given in licensing rounds under previous Labour governments, it feels proud of its own record of producing oil and gas from shore oil fields — which it has just been instructed to sell — as well as pioneering exploration in the Channel and in the Irish Sea.

Its argument through successive governments, under the last Labour Government, to transfer its oil interests to the fledgling state oil corporation, and, more recently, the present government's desire to transfer them to the state oil corporation, has been consistent and obstinate.

It has taken genuine risks in exploration. It needs to take part in exploration if it is to understand and have some control over the future supply of its natural gas. As long as this is so, then it cannot separate out whether it is exploring for gas or for oil, still less so today when some

of the big new sources of its gas are likely to come from fields in which gas is associated with oil.

BNOG's history has been more recent and more fraught. It was founded only five years ago on the transfer of producing interests from the National Coal Board (a main share in the Viking gas field with a share in discoveries at Dunlin, Hutton and Thistle), and, more fortuitously, from the oil interests of the American Signal group, which had been bought by British Petroleum and then passed on to the Government as part of the state rescue operation.

These producing assets gave it a ready cash flow (the Corporation had revenues of nearly £450m last year) in the early years coupled with the assets on which to borrow on the private markets. They have also given it a firm base on which it has built up one of the most stable exploration interests off-shore in Britain as the Labour Government demanded compulsory participation in any new licences awarded.

From the point of view of government funding, the

ambitious plan to combat unemployment was the favoured project of Mr Joop den Uyl, the leader of the Labour Party, who is vice-premier and a sort of super minister of social affairs with special responsibility for all matters pertaining to unemployment in the second Van Agt Cabinet which resigned last Friday.

Both Mr den Uyl and his party are committed to taking drastic action over the current unemployment, and he initially requested that some 4,000 guilders be allocated next year towards the creation of new jobs.

There was disagreement within the Cabinet about the fact that soaring unemployment is the country's severest headache. Officially more than 400,000 people, or 9.6 per cent of the working population, are out of work. It will not be long before this official figure reaches the psychologically traumatic level of half a million. In fact the real level of unemployment in the Netherlands is already much higher; about a quarter of a million unemployed are not included in the jobsless total because they are receiving disability benefits.

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Adrian Hamilton

Mr Lawson starts the big North Sea sell-off

BNOG's main oil interests		
Field	Reserves (million barrels)	BNOG's share (million barrels)
Beairste	180	45
Bras	250	50
Dunlin	300	29
Hutton	250	50
Murchinson	300	100
Ninian	1,050	218
Statfjord (UK)	550	183
Thistle	450	85

Source: Wood, Mackenzie and Co.

British Gas Corporation's oil interests		
Field	Reserves	British Gas share
Beryl	800	80
Fulmar	500	19
Hutton	250	26
NW Hutton	280	72
Montrose	90	28

Source: Wood, Mackenzie and Co.

combined oil interests of the two corporations are extremely attractive. If the new Energy Secretary is now pressing ahead with the sales where his predecessor, Mr David Howell, stepped back from it (in the early months of the Government there were intensive discussions with BP with a view to it taking BNOG's assets), it is largely because the Government's funding needs have proved so overwhelming.

The value of the two corporations' holdings, even excluding their more speculative exploration interests, is large — between £1,500m and £2,000m in the case of BNOG and over £1,000m in the case of BGC. Although a considerable slug for the market to absorb, it should not be impossible, especially if the Government is prepared to sell the assets directly to the oil companies.

As the recent take over of Conoco has shown, American oil companies, especially, have proved they can raise large sums for takeovers and many still have those credits ready to be revived. Then there are the oil companies of

the oil deficient countries such as Germany and Japan which have so far proved relatively unsuccessful in their efforts to find oil of their own and, on past occasions, enthusiastic about taking a large share of the North Sea.

The difficulties will be the more practical ones of setting rules for the sales and overcoming some of the legal problems associated in the various partnerships. The Government is bound to come under heavy pressure not to allow the oil to be sold to foreign companies, yet to restrict the sale only to UK concerns will be difficult to police and will rouse an outcry from America as well as the EEC.

Nor will companies which were forced into partnership with BNOG take kindly to any sale which reflects on the preferential value given to state corporations in previous rounds.

The government's decision will be bitterly opposed by the Gas Corporation, which will see in it a direct effort to clip its wings and destroy its exploration and production

else.

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Effectively, it means that in times of crisis the Government can ensure that oil is sold into Britain, rather than abroad, and that it can regulate oil production rates if it so desires.

The critics will argue that this is not enough. A state oil company, it is suggested, is crucial as a means of ensuring that a proportion of profits is kept for the nation, to cast an eagle eye on the tax and production manoeuvres of the oil companies and to enable the state to undertake exploration and development which the oil companies, for reasons of self-interest, may not be willing to carry out.

When BNOG was founded five years ago, it was in the wake of a devastating report by the Parliamentary Accounts Committee pointing out how little of the benefits of the North Sea would come to Britain at that time.

It was against the background that no other country outside America and Australia had been willing to develop its oil resources solely in the hands of private companies.

Now the wheel has turned full circle, only this time it is not on the grounds of need for greater private capital to develop resources — both BNOG and BGC have adequate cash flow for their present needs — but on the grounds of philosophy and political expediency. It is a move that will arouse some of the bitterest and most fundamental political debates so far in the government's life.

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Mr Nigel Lawson: tough political battle ahead.

the oil deficient countries such as Germany and Japan which have so far proved relatively unsuccessful in their efforts to find oil of their own and, on past occasions, enthusiastic about taking a large share of the North Sea.

The difficulties will be the more practical ones of setting rules for the sales and overcoming some of the legal problems associated in the various partnerships. The Government is bound to come under heavy pressure not to allow the oil to be sold to foreign companies, yet to restrict the sale only to UK concerns will be difficult to police and will rouse an outcry from America as well as the EEC.

Nor will companies which were forced into partnership with BNOG take kindly to any sale which reflects on the preferential value given to state corporations in previous rounds.

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Why Holland cannot balance its books

Amsterdam

The fact that Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands has asked two economists to find a way out of the country's present political crisis aptly illustrates the nature of problems involved.

The 15 able politicians — six Christian Democrats including Prime Minister, six Socialists and three Democrats who form what has become since last Friday, a caretaker Cabinet — had no apparent difficulty in finding a solution to the sensitive problem of how to tell Holland's NATO allies that the signing of nuclear missiles on Dutch soil was out of the question for the foreseeable future.

But when they got to the gritty-gritty of backing this decision they found themselves as numerous Dutch companies and households in these difficult times, in serious trouble.

In spite of more than three months' arduous formation talks between the three coalition partners after the May 26 parliamentary elections, and a further five weeks of negotiations within the new Cabinet, it was clear by September 11 it proved impossible to reconcile the need to cut public expenditure for 1982 by some 4,500m guilders (about £1,000m) with

ambitious plan to combat unemployment.

The latter is the favoured project of Mr Joop den Uyl, the leader of the Labour Party, who is vice-premier and a sort of super minister of social affairs with special responsibility for all matters pertaining to unemployment in the second Van Agt Cabinet which resigned last Friday.

Both Mr den Uyl and his party are committed to taking drastic action over the current unemployment, and he initially requested that some 4,000 guilders be allocated next year towards the creation of new jobs.

There was disagreement within the Cabinet about the fact that soaring unemployment is the country's severest headache. Officially more than 400,000 people, or 9.6 per cent of the working population, are out of work. It will not be long before this official figure reaches the psychologically traumatic level of half a million. In fact the real level of unemployment in the Netherlands is already much higher; about a quarter of a million unemployed are not included in the jobsless total because they are receiving disability benefits.

While the most recent Dutch disaster, known as "Hollanditis", refers to the spread of unilateral nuclear disarmament, an earlier

ambitious plan to combat unemployment was the favoured project of Mr Joop den Uyl, the leader of the Labour Party, who is vice-premier and a sort of super minister of social affairs with special responsibility for all matters pertaining to unemployment in the second Van Agt Cabinet which resigned last Friday.

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Football

Neill has remedy to solve a problem shared by his rival

From Clive Hille

Maasricht, Oct 19

The coal-mining town of Winterstas may not be Terry Neill's first choice as a venue for his first season in the club, but at least he can find comfort in the knowledge that his opponent, the Belgium manager, has the same remedy or power as Mr Neill has. The Arsenal board has underlined his stand on the "question of exorbitant transfer fees today when Tony Wood, a senior executive, declared: "He has an awful lot of money at his disposal and the full authority to spend it. And he added that if Mr Neill felt justified in spending £2m on one player he could do so. It will be even more difficult now for Neill to haggle with other managers with so much money being jangled about.

While expressing complete faith in Mr Neill, the directors are clearly worried not only by the noise of the shareholders but also by the ghosts of Brady and Stapleton, both of whom they failed to attract to Arsenal. Mr Wood said: "We are perhaps more concerned than our shareholders, but where are the players? There was only one good

centre forward available at the end of last season and he belonged to us."

Clearly Arsenal are still fretting over the sale of their first choice, the 25-year-old striker, who, they felt, could not be persuaded to stay in England but this was not the case with Stapleton. Losing a player like Stapleton to another English club definitely hurt us," Mr Wood said.

Even the dark-skinned Meade, who was the No 9 shirt against Manchester City, pole position in the league, scoring, Stapleton, Meade, the scorer of one of those rare, the same remedy or power as Mr Neill has. The Arsenal board has underlined his stand on the "question of exorbitant transfer fees today when Tony Wood, a senior executive, declared: "He has an awful lot of money at his disposal and the full authority to spend it. And he added that if Mr Neill felt justified in spending £2m on one player he could do so. It will be even more difficult now for Neill to haggle with other managers with so much money being jangled about.

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Meade: likely to step down for tonight's Uefa Cup tie.

there is no reason to believe that Wednesday's team will be under strength or in fear of the unknown. Although Rimmer, Swain, Evans, Morley and Weston have been in the treatment, none is sufficiently badly injured to be in doubt. In the event, the defeat of Dynamo by the Nottingham Forest here in 1980,

is enough to give confidence. On Wednesday the team will be home to Dynamo before completing their victory here.

Villa were encouraged on Saturday by hearing Western Ham United 3-2 but their form this season questions their ability to assist Liverpool in securing the title. Liverpool are in a good position to win the European Cup says in Britain.

Southern's victory, which takes them up to fourth place, hinged on a sizeable contribution from Cawston. The most memorable of his many saves came in the ninth minute when Johnson, the Brentford No 9, almost shot the headlines from Graves. Cawston had earlier made a brilliant reflex save. Three minutes from the end Cawston was still performing, and would have been a great help to meeter Bowen's shot. The nearest he came to being beaten was when Hurlock struck the bar.

McKellar was similarly kept, keeping out splendid efforts from Cawston and Bradley shortly before the interval.

There was little he could do about the one that got away. Thirteen minutes from the end, Cawston unleashed a stunning strike which penetrated the home defence and gave Southern's left half back his first goal in two and a half years.

Brentford: D. McKellar, R. Tricker, M. Hall, D. Salinas, A. Whitehead, J.

Suspension will rule Gray out of two reunions

The Wolverhampton Wanderers striker Andy Gray, who has been suspended for four matches, will include two meetings with his former club, Aston Villa. Gray starts an automatic return to the club on Saturday, after being sent off in a League Cup tie against Villa earlier this month, and he has been banned for a further two matches after being reported by the referee for using foul language during the match.

Kickline, the Notts County defender, who has been suspended for three matches, has been suspended for three matches. West Bromwich Albion hopes to complete the £200,000 signing of a Dutch defender, Martin Jol, from Twente Enschede within the next few days.

Kevin Beale, the former England defender, must return to a hospital physiotherapist at Cambridge after complaining about a recurring pain in his right knee. The 28-year-old Ipswich player underwent a fifth operation on the knee last month.

Blyth Spartans away at Scarborough

The Northern League champions, Blyth Spartans, who reached the fifth round of the FA Cup in 1977-78 and held Hull City to a second round draw last season, will be away at Scarborough in the fourth qualifying round.

Mosley, from the Northern Premier League, who beat Crewe Alexandra in the first round last season before losing to Mansfield Town, are also away in the regionalised draw. They visit the Northern League side, South Bank, from the Midlands.

Malden United, of the Alliance Premier League who took Gillingham to a second replay before reaching the fourth round last season, will play at Exeter City, have a home tie with the Isthmian League side, Barking.

Enfield and Altrincham, the two other non-league teams who have been exempt until the third round proper of the 1981-82 competition, together with Bishop's Cleeve

Blank day for son of a famous father

By David Powell

Brentford 0, Southern United 1. Not often is the third division blessed with such a surprise. As seen at Griffin Park last evening, on this occasion, however, the exploits of McKellar in Brentford's goal and Cawston, his opposite number, must be analysed later while it is noted that Daniel Greaves, 18, scored in his second full appearance for Southern United.

While the father, Jimmy, studied the 18-year-old forward's progress from the press box, the young Greaves had but one chance to provide the simple story for an unusually large gathering of reporters at a game of this level.

Although young Greaves was re-

Today's fixtures

UFA CUP: Second round, first leg: Walsley v Mansfield (19.00), Walsley v Mansfield (19.00), Walsley v Mansfield (19.00).

FOOTBALL: Championship: Charlton Athletic v Oldham Athletic (19.00), Reading v Doncaster Rovers (19.00), Reading v Doncaster Rovers (19.00), Reading v Doncaster Rovers (19.00).

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Cricket

Guessing games continue

Lord's yesterday left the world to play a guessing game over England's scheduled tour to India due to start on November 5.

Most informed sources expect the tour to be called off after demands from the Indian Cricket Board that Geoff Boycott and Geoff Cook be dropped from the party because of their South Africa links.

However, as Donald Carr, secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board, was unable to make direct contact with Indian officials yesterday, there was no official word from Lord's.

Cook will not withdraw from the party. He said yesterday that to stand down would be an admission of guilt, and he had nothing to feel guilty about.

Ray Kanenberg, a writer from Johannesburg, said a contract worth 600,000 rands (more than £35,000) plus expenses is reportedly being demanded before a team of 17 international cricketers to play for eight weeks in South Africa this season.

The South African Cricket Union (SACU), the non-racial controlling body of cricket in the country, has said it is no secret that huge private sponsorship is available should England players, unhappy about a possible substitute tour to New Zealand, choose to come here.

Ice hockey

Redskins take another scalp

The most jubilantly greeted result at the weekend was Streatham Redskins 5, Durham Wasps 4 or the hockey face count it, the South 4, the North 0.

Fears that the southern club in the new English National League would provide very little competition for the traditionally stronger northern teams have proved groundless.

Tuesday's 5-4 victory, the first appearance by the Redskins in the new league, was a very convincing one.

The experience of the three imports on the ice at Streatham was crucial. The Canadian defencemen, Robin Andrew, helped lay out three goals for Gary Searns, Streatham's Canadian centre.

Andrew, who has been contracted to play for three seasons, replaced Stefan three times during a torrid second period and kept Durham in the game until the last seconds when he was replaced by an extra forward.

"It was important for us to beat them," said Red Irie, Streatham's coach. "They had a very good team, but we were not beaten."

In the British league — as the Northern League has grandiosely

Basketball

Little to choose between two leaders

By Nicholas Hartling

The two clubs most widely expected to dispute this season's National League title met at Crystal Palace yesterday with very little to choose between them.

Although Solent, the visitors, have scored more points and collected more rebounds per game, Palace's shooting percentage and defensive record are superior.

Solent, having played a game more, lead the first division after their promotion at the first attempt, and are expected to put Palace on the back foot.

The main battle beneath the boards, however, was between the two defences, formerly of Palace, and the London club's American.

Something has got to give as both clubs extended 100 per cent records at the weekend, Solent beating Birchwood 109-81, Palace defeating Ovaltine. Hemel Hempstead, with rather more trouble than the 96-79 scoreline suggests,

For Solent, Johnson (29 points) was the top scorer, two more than Roma manager for Palace.

Flat Birmingham, last season's champions, the only other club to have won games, were not helped by Liverpool, who finished with 96-65, fielding their bench players during the second half, having established their dominance during a first half when Liverpool's shooting percentage of 20 was the worst on record.

What Stanley Williams, the 7ft American told by Liverpool that he was no longer wanted, which have made of this is anybody's guess. His replacement, the 6ft 4in Leroy Shaw, who is rather more mobile, finished with 20 points but Liverpool still look likely to be removed from the Asda National Cup next weekend by Leicester. All Stars of the second division.

Brighton are another club who have sacked an American, in this case Anderson, whose replacement

Tennis

Struggle to qualify is hard on the eye

By Rex Bellamy

Tennis Correspondent

Except for the off-court adventures of two dissatisfied mice who must take a long series of wrong turnings to get anywhere near the place, yesterday's programme in the women's Grand Prix tournament, sponsored by Dailly, at the Brighton Centre was predictably bland, the qualifying competition produced some largely combative matches, none more so than that in which Caterina Lindqvist, of Sweden, three times to that American, Croft, of Kent, aged 18, by 6-7, 6-1, 7-5. But there was always this feeling of waiting for the stars to come out. They will do so today.

One of the interesting things about women's tennis these days is that whereas John McEnroe is obviously much more established a clear claim to the 1981 world championship title that will be awarded after a hard-fought battle by the International Tennis Federation have decided who will be the world champion, but tennis administrators have a remarkable gift for complicating simple issues.

The women in contention are the French, Wimbledon, and United States champions, Ilana Mandlikovic, Chris Lloyd and Tracy Austin, together with Martina Navratilova, who reached the quarter-finals of the Wimbledon, the final at Flushing Meadows, but this ended the series with nothing to show for her effort except a lot of money. Of these, only Miss Austin is competing at Brighton.

But the level of competition has improved so much that even the Brighton qualifying event would have been regarded as a decent tournament a decade ago.

Six Swiss girls turned up with their coach, Andrea Gimeno, the 1960s Wimbledon champion, and Seve Ballesteros made good matter and is now trying to do the same sort of thing for women's tennis in Switzerland, which is not the most obvious nursery for any sport that requires a reasonable expense of level ground.

Britain have six players in the main draw and had nine more, a figure which has been reduced to five by the withdrawal of the 15 domestic challengers included four teenagers, which is a fashionable but not a very successful strategy. British scene reflects the wider international struggle for supremacy. In this year's three most successful women's tennis tournaments, the French, Wimbledon, and United States championships are the ones that matter most.

After nine British players contested the 32-strong qualifying competition, only one of them, the last eight, they play off this morning for four vacancies in the main draw. The last eight, they play off this morning for four vacancies in the main draw.

The doubles draw at Brighton features many respected specialists in the craft, though most of them are newcomers. Smith, a familiar partner, Rosalyn Fairbank and Miss Hartford beat the French and Kathy Jordan in the French championship but lost to them at Wimbledon and Flushing Meadows.

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Golf

Miss Lee Smith keeps her bank manager happy

By John Hennessy

Golf Correspondent

Jenny Lee Smith, the pride of Newcastle golf, must be in good standing with her bank manager just now. On Saturday she received a cheque for £3,000 on winning the British women's matchplay championship, another £1,000 for £1,000, was presented to her by Hambro Life, sponsors of the tournament, and the Professional Golf Association order of merit.

Miss Smith had run away with the title with official prize money totalling £12,518, more than £4,000 ahead of her nearest challenger, Catherine Panton (£3,410). Muriel Thorneycroft, the winner, was third with £2,143.

There was little to choose between Miss Smith and the two Scots for the second season, but they were unable to produce their true form in the two lucrative tournaments, the Ladies' Open and the British Open and the matchplay.

Miss Smith, without wishing to take anything from Miss Smith, suggested yesterday that her prize money threw things out of

balance. You could do well in that tournament, she said, and poor form in the bread and butter tournaments would be discounted. Not that any of that applies to Miss Smith.

Miss Thomson has, however, won enough money to fund an attack on the American circuit next year, in the company of Miss Panton. They are to try their luck in the Ladies' Open and the Professional Golf Association school over there at the beginning of January in an attempt to win an American title.

Miss Smith, however, is not planning to leave the British scene. She is to play in the British Open and the British Open and the matchplay.

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balance. You could do well in that tournament, she said, and poor form in the bread and butter tournaments would be discounted. Not that any of that applies to Miss Smith.

Rugby Union

England's senior clubs seek a formula for national merit table

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

Yesterday's announcement by the Association of Senior Clubs that they are opposed to the Rugby Union, and want a national merit table instead, should be followed today by their reactions to the union's plan for a two-tier county championship played on fixed Saturdays next season.

The difference in union thinking about these various competitions is that the proposed system for a national league system, effective from 1983-84, have not got beyond the stage of a discussion paper. The union's plan for a two-tier county championship played on fixed Saturdays next season.

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By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

Yesterday's announcement by the Association of Senior Clubs that they are opposed to the Rugby Union, and want a national merit table instead, should be followed today by their reactions to the union's plan for a two-tier county championship played on fixed Saturdays next season.

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Racing

Flying Piggott leaves his rivals jet-lagged

By Michael Seely

Lester Piggott is indestructible. After riding Ivan to victory in the Houghton Stakes on Saturday, he was back at Newmarket on Sunday to ride the favourite in the 1,000 Guineas. Piggott must never have heard of the phrase jet lag. For there he was at Leicester yesterday only a few days short of his 46th birthday, landing a 16-1 treble on Taxis, Knave of Trumps and Clymene.

Somewhere along the line Piggott's impish sense of humour must have got the better of him over his hectic weekend. A reporter at London Airport was told that the jockey was thinking of giving up after his unsuccessful journey to Canada. When questioned about this, Piggott just roared with laughter and said: "You'll have to ask Henry who is riding for him next season, won't you?" This remark totally perplexed Cecil, who confirmed that Piggott would be riding for Warren Place again next season.

All Piggott's three winners were

two-year-olds trained by Cecil and bred at the Somerley Stud. They therefore carried various combinations of the green and yellow colours made famous by such outstanding racehorses as Charlie Town and Midday. The winners, Taxis and Clymene, were sired by the 1976 Champion Stakes winner, Virages, who is standing at the Somerley Stud.

Five races on yesterday's morning programme were for two-year-olds. And Cecil also provided the favourite in the other two sections of the Red Hand Fillies' Stakes. However, Chalon could only finish third behind Lord of the Sky and earlier Tanguish had finished unplaced behind Position in the 2.15.

YOUNG PERSONS' LAW PROJECT

A NEW LAWYER PROJECT has been set up to help young people with legal problems. The project is run by the Law Society and is aimed at young people aged 16-25 who are in trouble with the law. The project is run by a team of lawyers and social workers who will help young people with legal problems. The project is run by the Law Society and is aimed at young people aged 16-25 who are in trouble with the law.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the above named company is required to be wound up. The Liquidator of the said company is Mr. J. P. Phillips, F.C.A., of 10 Hallam Street, London W1N 6DJ. The Liquidator is required to call on the creditors of the said company to present their claims to him. The Liquidator is also required to call on the shareholders of the said company to present their shares to him. The Liquidator is also required to call on the directors of the said company to present their shares to him.

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Mrs. Judith Brown, Ref: 18244/T. Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form 01-734 6852, Sutherland House, 5/6 Argyl Street, LONDON, W1S 6EZ.

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Royal Insurance, one of the largest U.K. based international insurance groups, is to appoint a qualified and experienced lawyer or chartered secretary at its GROUP HEAD OFFICE IN LONDON.

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CARPETS

Tuesday 27th October at 4 pm
CONTINENTAL SILVER

Tuesday 27th October at 8.30 pm
FRENCH SILVER

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Lady Fringle was speaking just a few feet from the spot where the car bomb exploded and she has home in South Croxted Road, West Dulwich, London.

Sir Stewart lost part of his right leg. Yesterday his condition was satisfactory at King's College Hospital.

"Lady Fringle said: "We have been overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us both—a very great contrast to the utter cruelty of the persons who planned the bomb. I am as very grateful for such support and sympathy as I can receive."

Sir Stewart, aged 53, is listed in *Who's Who*, in which his address is given in full. *Who's Who* publishers, A. and C. Black of London are expecting a rush of calls from famous people who wish to have their addresses withdrawn.

A spokesman said: "It is not an attractive thought that we might be used as some kind of A-to-Z for terrorists. It is very unpleasant, but individuals, and not the *Who's Who*, must make about their personal details."

"Details in *Who's Who* can help not only bombers, but all kinds of troublemakers. All the time, people who are in positions of danger ask us to withdraw details, and we respond. It is a new phenomenon and we find it frightful!"

Mr. Edward Heath campaigned for the Conservatives yesterday in the Croydon North West by-election, and said nothing.

For Mrs Thatcher, it could have been a lot worse. He might have said something. But it would be an error to assume that his visit was unwelcome.

On the issue, Mr. Heath was in the interesting position of being as easier to understand. His general silences yesterday on the subject of Mrs Thatcher were the most definitive public statement so far of his position on the matter.

Mr. Heath appeared in support of Mr. Butterfill who, like a crunchy item of confectionery advertised disgustingly on TV, but is in fact the Conservative Party. They had lunch in a pub and then advanced through the saloon bar for a Meet the People lunchtime drinkers called out. Mr. Heath pressed on towards the street. As always, he preferred an Avoid the People tour. Mr. Heath is not a very popular man. A woman asked him to turn back and engage the citizen in conversation. He agreed.

"What are your policies?" said this voice of the people at the bar. "Yes," Mr. Heath replied, "slowly." The average citizen repeated his question. "He's the candidate. It's him you're voting for," said Mr. Heath, placing a hand menacingly on the shoulder of the woman. "I thought we were voting for the Government," said the typical voter. "You vote for them as well," Mr. Heath replied. He made the same sound like the tick of a horror clock in *In the Thing?* ("note for *Them?*" says Ted). But it was the most wholehearted endorsement Mrs Thatcher was to get all afternoon.

We left the pub and advanced through the rest of the electorate. Mr. Heath and Mr. Butterfill wandered up and down the High Street for a while in the middle of a couple of times they all piled into a small grocery shop. Other times they would wander passing housewives. Considering the general reaction to the man, it was a curious sight. Mr. Heath was good-natured, showed none of his fabled quick temper, and even seemed at times to enjoy the proceedings. And when it was a difficult question he believes this govern-

ment to be disastrous, but he is remorseless in his attacks on the Conservative Party, while in emphasis on unity, compel him to put in at least a token appearance at this by-election.

None the less he managed to convey an impression of distance, of a man who is a businessman's coal miner at his side like a Burton's cigarette he was simply being bored along, possibly against his will, by the tide of cameras and microphones. A passer by would recognize him and shake his head.

The talking would then be done by Mr. Butterfill, whom Mr. Heath would introduce as the candidate. "This was just as well. So significant did Mrs. Heath seem: so imprudent, he with verbal manners which were, at times, rather weary. He attempted to make the would have been bound to come out as Mr. Butterfill. Mr. Butterfill, or Mr. Burton Mountain, a fellow European. Eventually, we found ourselves in a portmanteau of suburban idyll called, *Rose Avenue*. We all charged up and down a couple of gardens, infested front gardens shaking hands with the children. A woman said she had been a Conservative because of Mr. Ken Livingstone, the left-leaning leader of the GLC, whose name parents use as a paragon of high-minded obedience. Livingstone, "a great help," Mr. Heath observed as they moved on. "Where did they find him?"

It was a woman wearing a Number 33 with an autograph book for Mr. Heath to sign. She had an SDP Liberal poster in her window.

"I'd vote Conservative if I could," she said.

Thatcher," she said. Mr. Heath had no alternative, but to reply that he was not interested in personalities but in issues, and that in any case, while he had difficulties with the Prime Minister over the use of nuclear weapons, there was no question of the woman put it in "getting rid of her."

"After an hour and a half it was time for Mr. Heath to go home," he said.

He turned and waved to the photographers. One pressed forward in the hope of getting an exclusive silence. Instead, he observed that Mr. Butterfill was Mr. Heath, "very good on the doorstep."

Mr. Heath predicting a "win on Thursday." "I don't make predictions," he said as he lowered himself into his motor car. He was the director of his Beaulieu, Sidcup constituency as he looked into a well-earned further silence.

[illegible]

On the eve of Motorfair at Earl's Court this report looks at why seven out of 10 British cars on the road today do not belong to private motorists but are owned by companies; they are provided for reasons, not least that a car can cost less than a wage rise. Some manufacturers have taken note of this demand and make models specifically for the fleet market

COMPANY CARS

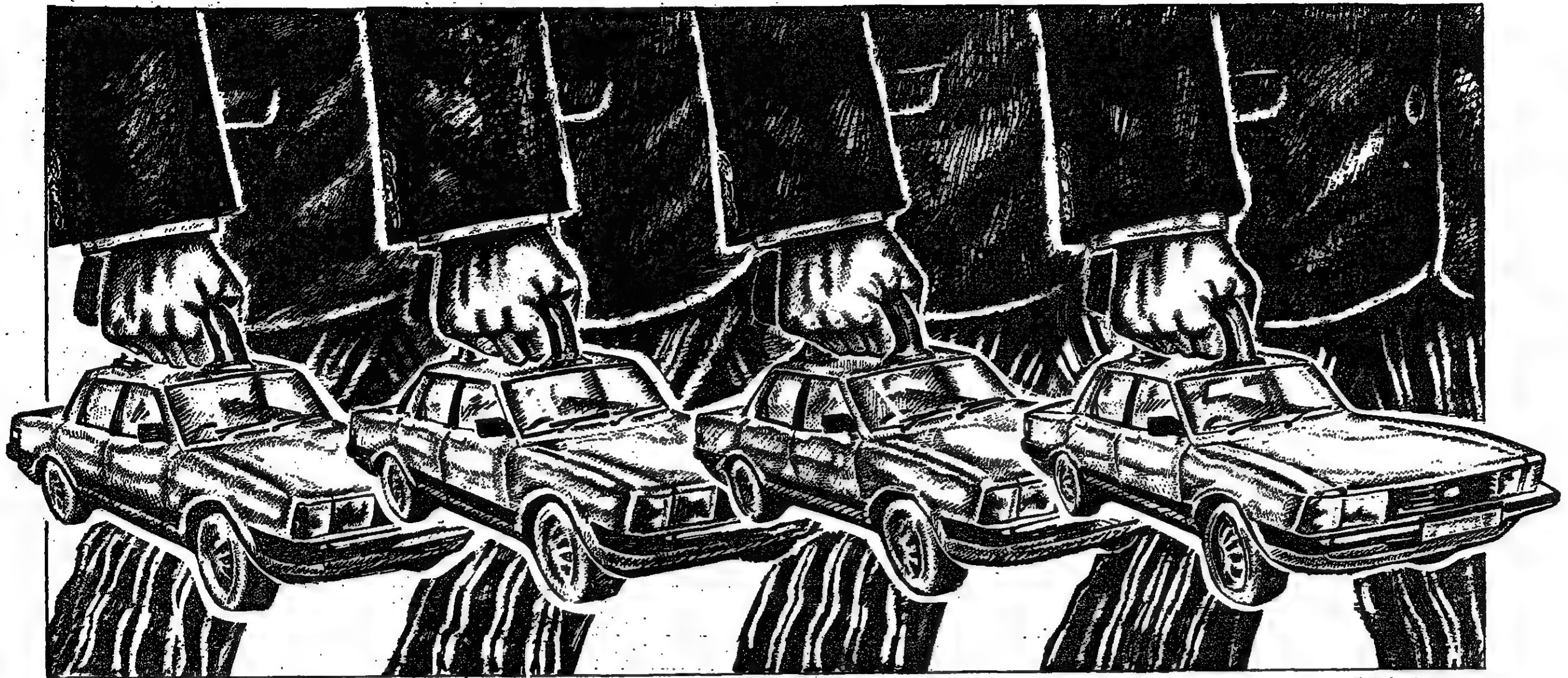


Illustration: Gerry Greaves

The most important thing to remember about sales of new cars in Britain is that the majority are made to company and business users. Probably as few as three new cars in 10 are bought by private motorists, a fact that has profound implications for the market as a whole.

Exact figures are impossible to establish, partly because manufacturers are shy about giving possible clues to the opposition but also because of the difficulties of definition. But it is generally agreed in the trade that about half of the new cars sold in Britain are registered by business users and that a further 15 to 20 per cent are bought with company money.

"Company car" is, therefore, an umbrella term which covers almost any new car purchase which is not genuinely private. It includes, obviously and most importantly, the fleets, big and small, which account for the bulk of business sales. These are the cars used by salesmen and representatives, police

forces, driving schools, hire companies, government departments, local authorities and television rental firms.

Then there are the vehicles which a company buys for its executives and directors, often setting a price band and letting the person choose. Here the distinction between the essential business tool and the car provided as a perk to boost a salary can become blurred. Top people can justifiably lay claim to comfortable and efficient personal transport, which may also have to serve as a temporary place of work.

Other cars are simply handed over with a job, like the typist's luncheon vouchers. The practice of giving cars as perks has been encouraged by the various income policies of the past 10 years: unable to attract the right calibre of person on salary alone, companies have offered a car as an additional incentive. And thanks to a favourable taxation system, it can be cheaper for firms to give cars than to raise salaries by a comparable amount.

In a further category are cars bought by professional people — doctors, dentists, architects and so on — which for tax purposes can legitimately be claimed as a business expense.

Companies tend to keep cars a shorter time than the private buyer, usually trading them in for new models after two or three years. Business users drive much further than the domestic motorist and two years can easily equal 50,000 miles, at which point shock absorbers, brakes, clutch and exhaust may all come up for repairs or renewal.

When times are hard, however, cash flow considerations may force companies to hold on to vehicles longer and the lengthening of the two to three year cycle will obviously affect the level on new car purchases. The hope must be, as it is at the moment, that a time will come when replacing the fleet can no longer be put off.

Car makers are particularly watching the large car sector, which has dropped significantly more than the market as a whole over the past two

years. In this sector, company purchases probably account for 80 to 90 per cent of sales and whether the slump is caused just by deferred purchases or represents a permanent shift towards smaller cars remains to be seen.

Apart from higher fuel consumption and servicing costs, companies may be deciding that it is not appropriate, in a time of depression, for their top men to be seen driving around in luxury limousines. It may be difficult to persuade the workforce to see the need for sacrifice if they are not being made higher up.

In contrast to private buyers, companies have tended to maintain a policy of buying British. The domestic car industry would be in a far worse state than it is without business purchases, a fact that is invariably emphasized when governments threaten to crack down on company car perks.

This loyalty has a patriotic element, with one section of British industry feeling that it should be seen to be supporting another. But there are hard commercial motives as well. Much may be said and written about the supposed unreliability of British cars, yet the experience of transport managers is that taking everything into account, British models can be cheaper to run. Parts and servicing, for instance, generally cost less and repair bills can be lower; and this is reflected in more favourable insurance premiums.

The foreign importers have, however, been making strenuous efforts to break into the company car market. At the luxury and executive end, where the recipient of the car is often able to choose the model, foreign makes have found it relatively easy to get established. Progress in the fleet area has been slower, though Renault, Fiat, Volkswagen and others are making inroads.

The market is dominated, as it has been for a decade or more, by Ford. The very

reason for Ford's success in Britain, where it sells almost one new car out of three, has been its ability to cater for the fleet customer. The leading fleet models are the Cortina and Escort, while business purchases have put the Granada at the top of the large car sector.

BL, on the other hand, can ascribe much of its weakness to not having successful fleet models. The Marina, designed specifically to take on the Cortina, has been a steady seller but even in its newer guise as the Ital has never come near to challenging Ford's supremacy. The Allegro has lagged well behind the Escort and is due to cease production in the spring. The Honda-based Trionfi, which may help to fill the gap but for serious fleet competitors BL will have to await the LM10 and LM11 which are not due until 1983-84.

Vauxhall presents something of a puzzle. Even Ford has not privately conceded that the Vauxhall range is as good as anyone's and that in the Cavalier, of which a new version has just been launched, it has a potential answer to the Cortina. Yet Vauxhall's market share remains wretchedly low, suggesting that the fault lies in the selling of the product rather than the product itself.

When Talbot was called Chrysler its main contenders in the fleet market were bread and butter models like the Hunter, Avenger and Sunbeam. Now the company is having to establish an identity for itself, and a niche in the fleet market, with more advanced cars. The decision to make the Horizon in Britain was taken with fleet sales in mind, as was the idea of giving the Alpine a boot and creating the Solara.

To some extent British manufacturers have been imprisoned by the fleet manager's preference for mechanically unambitious cars that offer the promise of greater reliability and easier maintenance. Fleets have also demanded spacious saloons, rather than hatchbacks. But, mainly thanks to Ford, attitudes are changing.

It began with the Fiesta. Ford was able to convince transport managers that its front-wheel drive design was not inherently more costly to maintain and unusually for a small car, the Fiesta started to figure prominently among fleet sales. The revised Escort, also front-wheel drive, overcame initial doubts to maintain the position held by its predecessor, though surprisingly the Cortina replacement due next year will stick to a conventional layout.

For the dealers, the fleet market is a mixed blessing. It offers the chance of large and regular orders; but the margins are usually lower than on private sales. Fleet customers buying, as it were, in bulk, naturally expect discounts. The Ford dealer network, which sells getting on for 500,000 cars a year, is in a better position to offer favourable terms to fleet managers than rivals with a smaller throughput. But the fleet market is too important for any car maker to ignore.

Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

Fringe benefit on four wheels

The British car market is quite unique in that an estimated 60 per cent of all car sales are accounted for by company and fleet purchases in one form or another. This compares with 15 per cent to 20 per cent in Europe as a whole and slightly less in the USA.

It has come about because of two major factors. The long-standing tradition in British industry that the company should provide a car for employees who need to be mobile to perform their work adequately and secondly as a perk to retain key staff.

In other countries mobility is catered for through the provision of motor pools from which employees can draw a car for specific assignments or through the payment of allowances for the use of privately owned cars.

To this has been added the impetus provided by Government pay freezes, and more recently the need to maintain a public image of low wage increases to combat inflation. A company car is only one of a number of fringe benefits which employers use to pad out restricted salaries. The functional use of many of these company cars is questionable, to say the least but the status they carry for recipients is now such an established part of British life that any widespread attempt to withdraw them would be firmly resisted.

Against this background of huge, well established sales it is all the more surprising to find that the importers who now account for over 60 per cent of the total new car market in Britain, should have made such small inroads in company and fleet sales. Why, if their cars are so demonstrably acceptable to the British motorists should

this be so? Buying and selling cars is a volume business and a lot of support services from the manufacturers and their dealer networks. Ford, BL, Vauxhall and Talbot UK all maintain large fleet sales departments to handle such diverse but necessary sectors as investment, sales, service, parts, finance and self drive hire. These are backed up by regional offices and well established dealer networks.

No importer can match this strength on the ground which is reinforced by the ability to react quickly to fleet buyers' specialised requirements.

As an example Rank Xerox recently made enquiries of manufacturers for the supply of 500 estate cars. But they wanted to make considerable changes from the standard specification. BL won the business by building, within two weeks, 500 Ital 1300cc estate cars equipped to the deluxe HL specification and fitted with a sunroof — a combination which does not feature in their price list.

Then again there is a very real problem for the importer of the "Buy British" campaign and the growing support for the view that charity begins at home. It is just not acceptable for a GKN "rep" to arrive at a car plant in Britain driving a foreign car. Indeed, if he turns up at a BL plant he is more than likely to be denied parking space within the factory boundaries.

Purchase price is not a significant factor. Many foreign cars are more than able to match domestic prices. But the difference between purchase and disposal prices is considerably in favour of British cars. It is much easier to sell several hundred second hand Corinas and obtain an acceptable price than to sell a

like number of Continental offerings.

The cost of spare parts and insurance are interlinked and again favour domestic cars. The insurance rating of a car is directly related to the cost of repairs. The importers have made considerable efforts to reduce their parts prices but most fleet operators insist that they still have a long way to go to close the gap.

BL is hoping to increase its penetration of the company and fleet market with the new Honda-designed Triumph Acclaim. But it has freely acknowledged that it first has to overcome the high cost of spare parts for Japanese cars — and the Acclaim's engine and transmission is entirely Japanese. So it has insisted that Honda-supplied parts should be made available to its dealers and fleet customers at prices which are competitive with British parts.

Mercedes and BMW have become well established in the company executive sector largely because of the well publicised shortcomings of BL's Rover and Jaguar models. Both have suffered from board room chit-chat about poor quality and reliability which once injected into the grape-vine is extremely difficult to eradicate.

It is in an attempt to do just that that Jaguar's new chairman, Mr John Egan, has conducted a quite ruthless drive to improve quality. There have been no fewer than 150 product improvements in the past year, most of them at the expense of component suppliers. They were told to meet Continental quality standards or lose the business.

Clifford Webb
Midlands Industrial
Correspondent

Ross Davies looks at the tax position

A peculiar perk

Not until I went to Japan, the world's leading car manufacturer, did I understand how British a phenomenon is the company car.

As I stepped from my train at Suzuka, west of Tokyo, I was met by the British man whose job it was to show me around the local Honda plant. In what, I wondered, would we drive off?

Suzuka is where Honda's motor cycle race track is to be found, although as a foreign visitor I did not expect to be invited to don crash helmet and jump on to the pillion. It was to be a car, but which one? The little Civic, which is made at Suzuka, or a bigger saloon — a Prelude, perhaps — made elsewhere but kept at the plant for purposes of hospitality?

What I found waiting outside the station surprised me. It was not a motor cycle; it was not even a Honda. We were whisked away to a Honda motor company plant in the air-conditioned ease of a Nissan Cedric.

The car a carmaking firm manufactures, of course, is not what we in Britain mean by a "company car". But few Japanese firms, even in the motor industry, give their employees "company cars"; vehicles retained out of working hours for private use.

At Suzuka, I was told, the discounts available to employees even to buy a Honda car were small to non-existent. You take your pay cheque and buy either what you like or what you can afford. Even if it is a Nissan Cedric.

In Britain, however, it is much, much different. Here, there is an income tax system which until 1976 has yet to catch up with the by then growing practice of giving employees company cars and

company petrol. Even now only "directors or other higher-paid employees", for example those earning over £8,500, are taxed on this perk.

In 1976, Mr Heslop, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, brought in a flat-rate Income Tax on the private use of the company car. The user is taxed according to the capacity of the engine, retail cost of the car when new, and whether or not it is four years or more old.

The present Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, plans to increase this tax by an average of a fifth in April. He is also to tax for the first time the provision of free petrol.

In 1979-80, the last period for which the Inland Revenue will divulge figures, tax from private use of company cars yielded about £25m. Not much, when the Inland Revenue says there are about 750,000 private users of company cars.

Driving around in a free car, often running on free petrol, is thus going to be less of a perk than it was. But given the cost of buying and leasing cars these days, whether many of the 750,000 drivers so blessed will be volunteering to make other arrangements is open to doubt.

So, too, is the effect upon car sales and therefore upon employment within the motor industry. The protests from the manufacturers came before the proposals were published, and seem to have been headed. Certainly neither the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders nor the British company must likely to be affected by heavier taxes on the company car, British Leyland, seem concerned to discuss what April's tax increases will bring.

As the current proposals stand, therefore, it seems that there will be no more than a hiccup in that British tradition, the company car. Like many British traditions, however, that of the company car is quite recent and therefore still vigorous.

Company cars have been given away as perks in this country for a long time. In Britain cars are expensive. A few miles across the English Channel, it is possible to buy British cars cheaper than a few miles down the road from where they are made.

The Americans and the Japanese pay between a half and two-thirds of what we do for comparable cars. But the motor industry in those countries is not blessed with the poor management, bad labour relations and low productivity we have here.

Company cars have been given away as perks for a long time in Britain, but they were not dished out on the present scale until about 10 years ago. It was then that "income restraint" whether voluntary in the form of a "social contract," or compulsory, after the fashion of Prices and Incomes Policy, became fashionable among politicians.

Company cars, along with private health insurance and soft loans for buying homes or paying school fees, became a popular way obeying the letter of the law/contract while defying its spirit.

The lucky employee reserved for his or her leisure hours a car fancier than could be afforded if he or she had bought it. The employer, on the other hand, could set down against his corporation tax the cost of the car. Tax caught up with the former, if not the latter, but not to a degree to alarm either.

continued on next page

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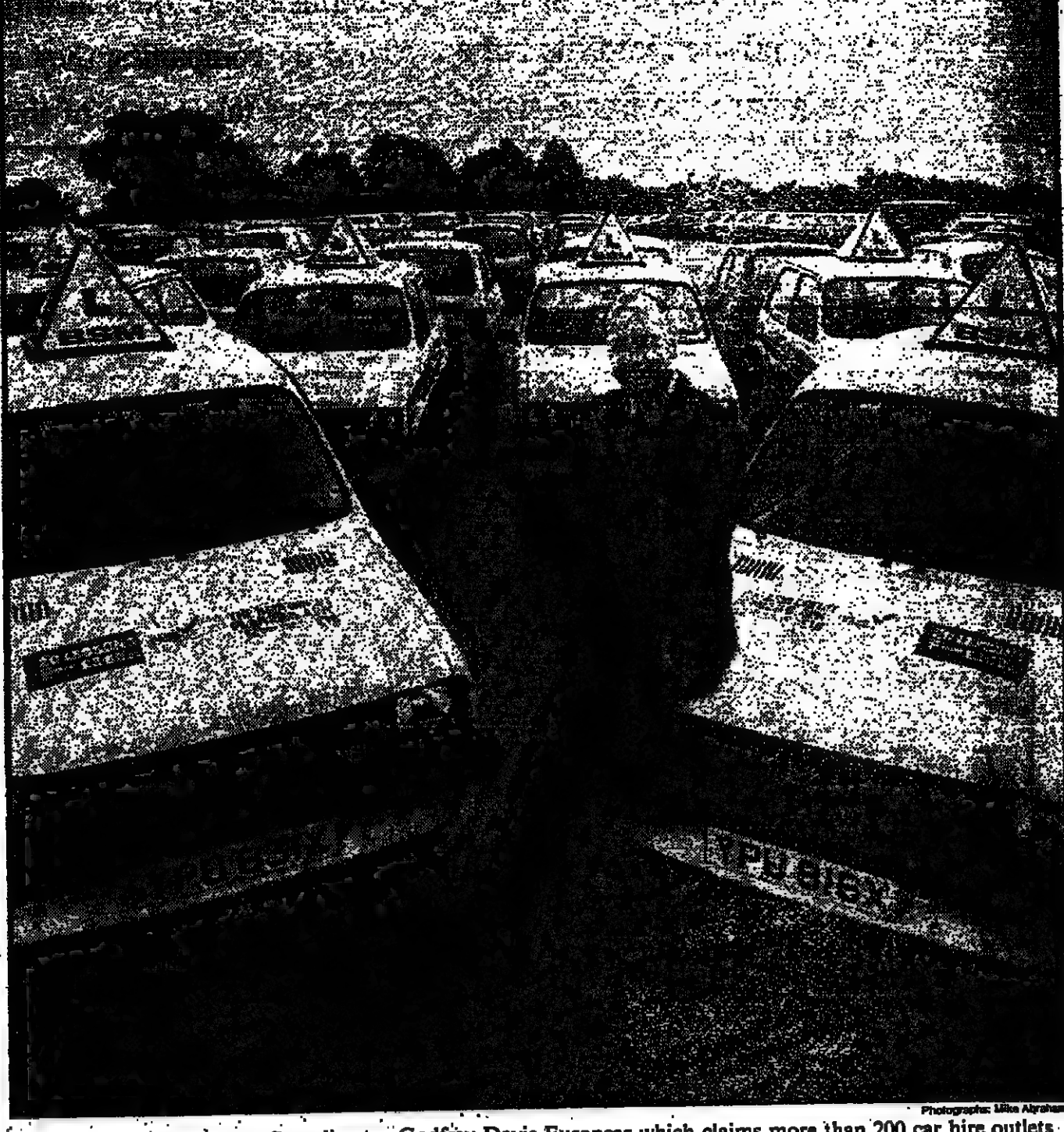
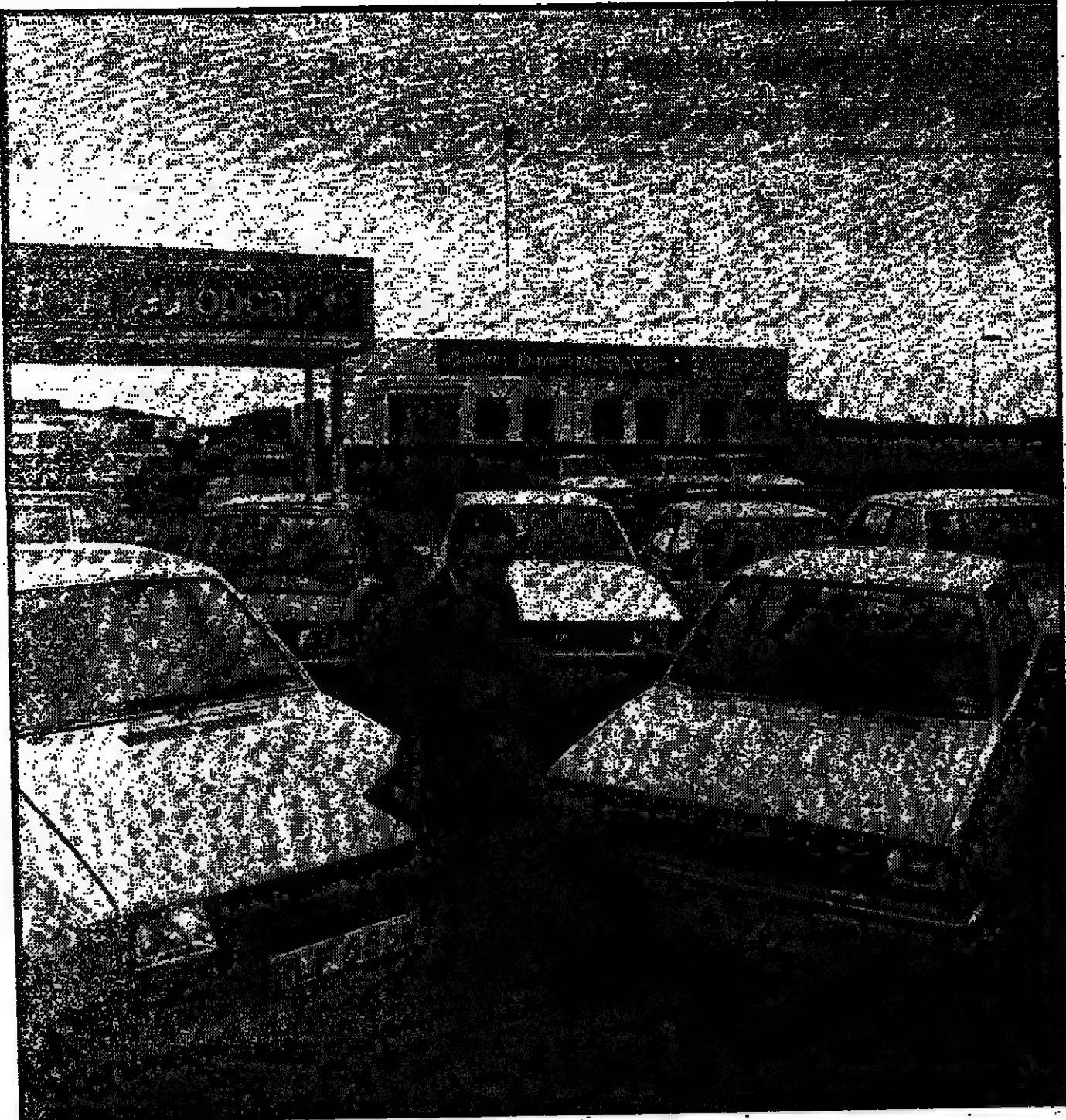
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7/29/10



Face to face... the two biggest companies in their respective fields and both large customers of British-built cars. Left: Derek Rádférn, fleet director Godfrey Davis Europcar which claims more than 200 car hire outlets throughout Britain, and right: John Miller, fleet director of the British School of Motoring, which by 1986 will have bought around 12,500 BL Metros.

Edward Townsend reports on the fierce trade warfare set for this winter, and explains the wooing of the instructors.

Off come the gloves in the fight for rental business

This winter, the scene is set for a rapid escalation of hostilities in the war to win bigger shares of the business car rental trade. The chief protagonists have had a lean time this summer with the depressed tourist market and are now looking to the business user of rented cars to provide the means for advance. All of them will be trying harder.

The fighting, however, is likely to be intense and some of the smaller operators could be wiped out. Only the major groups possess the resources to wage a concerted campaign.

Hertz, Avis, Godfrey Davis Europcar, Swan National, Kenning and the others are now fully aware that business travel has become the car rental industry's major revenue earner. And the secret of success in this highly competitive sector seems to rest on being able to provide the vehicles rapidly on demand and with a minimum of fuss and paperwork. The theory is that good and prompt service coupled with competitive hiring rates will create loyalty — and a steady income.

The stability of the business rental market is the major attraction to an industry which has in the past been

bedevilled by the vagaries of the private tourist sector. While the casual hirer may be looking more at his wallet and less at the attraction of an instantly available form of personal transport, the business user remains more constant. This is the case despite changing tendencies in the business sector, with more hirers demanding more fuel efficient cars and a significant switch away from long rental periods.

The total market for car rental in the United Kingdom is estimated at £220m a year, sales and perhaps about 1,000 companies are battling for shares. Most of them are small, often, back street, organizations with just a few cars to rent and in the business sector only the big operators can hope for increased trade.

In the past year, discounts, commissions and other forms of price reductions have been widespread and the wise business user has shopped around before making a decision. And the competition has been heightened by the growing practice of the car manufacturers themselves to enter the rental business. Ford, BL, Talbot and Vauxhall cars can often be seen on offer to rent at major garages and dealers.

But the big battle in the British car rental arena remains that between Godfrey Davis Europcar and Swan National and not, as many casual observers might imagine, between the two world giants of Hertz and Avis.

GDE was formed only this year following the takeover of the Godfrey Davis rental interests by the Renault subsidiary Europcar. The British company was already the biggest car hirer, claiming about 10 per cent of the market. GDE now has well over 200 outlets and its operations include the rail-drive contract with British Rail.

Swan, owned by the Trustee Savings Bank, following the latter's takeover of United Dominions Trust, has less than half the outlets of GDE and has marketed itself aggressively. In eight years, the company has built up a peak fleet of 8,500 vehicles and claims that 70 per cent of its £25m rental turnover comes from business contract hire.

Claims and counter claims in the car rental business are now legion, a further sign of the fiercely competitive nature of the trade, with Swan saying it is the market leader in business rental with

30 per cent of the £110m-a-year sales in Britain.

The biggest upset in the rental business has been the proliferation in the last year of companies operating at airports, traditionally the most lucrative source of business trade and one dominated in the past by the major international organizations like Hertz and Avis. London's Heathrow airport is reckoned to generate about £12m a year in car rental business and much of it comes from business travellers.

Through Europcar, GDE now has access not only to the Heathrow trade but also to an international network, while Swan set up its Heathrow desk earlier this year and began by undercutting its competitors' rates significantly.

The airport trade clearly provides one of the most tempting sources of revenue (Swan, for example, now has desks at Heathrow, Luton, Frestwick and Edinburgh) but it is the access to international outlets that could well prove to be a prerequisite.

Europcar was built up on its airport connections and through its arrangements with National Car Rental in the United States and Tilden in Canada, but its activities on an international scale are still not as big as the world leaders in car rental.

Which leaves both GDE and Swan having to compete not only on rates and service but also against the fact that business travellers, particularly from North America and the rest of Europe are much more familiar with the Hertz and Avis names.

There is also a greater emphasis on investment in technological marvels to speed up the rental process through sophisticated check-in and check-out procedures. Swan has installed a central computer at Leicester and hopes to have its Heathrow operation linked to it within two years and all branches equipped with computer terminals within five years.

But it appears that on a world basis, the two main deadly rivals, Hertz and Avis, are spending the most on wooing customers with the aid of computerized systems. Avis with its Express system and Hertz with its world data centre at Oklahoma City.

Hertz, which claims to rent a car somewhere in the world every 2.5 seconds, is now installing video units at rental desks which, in connection with the Oklahoma computer, can produce rental agreements and display invoices within minutes.

The company is also promoting its Number One Club, a free membership, computerized reservations service aimed specifically at business travellers. Hertz says that with only one hour's notice it can produce a car and the rental agreement at any of its offices in the world.

Why schools are vital in the drive for the private buyer

Britain's driving schools traditionally have provided one of the single most sought-after areas for car manufacturers' fleet sales. Above all, they are regarded as an important means for advertising.

The theory is that potential car buyers cannot be anything but impressed if a driving school is confident enough in the product to allow learners to use it. And with driving school vehicles out on the roads for up to eight hours a day, the cars are constantly in evidence.

The last major coup in this sector was won last year by BL which signed a £40m deal with the British School of Motoring, to replace the company's fleet entirely with Metros. By the end of November, BSM will have taken delivery of 1,500 Metros and after five years, following its policy of replacing cars after 18,000 miles, the total will be about 12,500.

BSM ordered 200 Metros before the car was introduced and on launch day a year ago 15 of its pupils passed the driving test in one of the cars.

Mr Tony Ball, chairman of BL Cars' world sales operations, stressed at the time the second most important aspect of selling into driving schools: "The Metro is an ideal vehicle in which to make your first venture on to the busy roads of Britain and I am sure that many first time drivers will be so impressed that they will choose the Metro when they come to purchase a new car for themselves."

Just how many successful driving test candidates go on

to buy the same type of car on which they were taught can only be a matter for conjecture. Certainly in the case of the Dolomite, used extensively by BSM, this cannot have been the case if the model's relatively poor market share is used as evidence.

Also difficult to assess is the exact size of the driving school market. An unknown proportion of Britain's learner drivers — at any one time they number about 1.25m — is taught by small, often one-car operators who may purchase second-hand cars. Another group comprises those who persuade a friend or relative to sit in the passenger seat while they fumble their way to some degree of proficiency.

No major faults

The number of new cars sold to driving schools generally is estimated at 10,000 a year, a small but highly significant market. The leader is Ford, followed by Datsun which, like some other importers, has not made a discernible dent in the fleet sector, and BL.

Schools tend to prefer front wheel drive cars, because of their positive handling characteristics, good visibility and those that can be cheaply and easily serviced and maintained.

But there are other factors taken into account by driving school car buyers that the private motorist probably would never consider.

Mr Clive Deacon, national sales director for BSM, stresses the importance of a high standard clutch and gearbox while another consideration is the quality of the runners on the driver's seat. The latter may not be given a second thought by the private motorist but in a driving school car, the seat is ratcheted backwards or forwards every hour, eight hours a day throughout the year.

BSM has, in fact, provided one of the best advertisements for the Metro. In their first year with the school, the cars have completed about 10 million miles with no major faults or servicing difficulties, although, says Mr Deacon, they have experienced "slight problems with seat runners."

Time off the road is money, lost to a driving school but, here again, BSM claims that servicing of its Metros has had minimal effect on the business. Average servicing time for its fleet has been only four hours per car. Reliability is of paramount importance for, as Mr Deacon says, "breaking down is the absolute sin in our business."

This latter factor probably explains why Datsun has done well in the driving school sector. Japanese cars have such a high reputation for reliability that they become a natural choice for the schools, while dealers who are mindful of the theory that pupils will buy the car on which they were taught are keen to foster the business.

Datsun UK encourages its dealers to go for the driving school trade, but because of the uncertainty over supplies

of new cars that has arisen since the introduction of the voluntary Japanese restraint in Britain, has not been able to formulate a concerted drive and leaves it to dealers to negotiate independently with the schools.

Datsun's driving school sales of about 2,000 a year are mostly Sunny, Violet and Cherry models and are to the smaller, independent establishments. Datsun sums up its success thus: "Our strength lies in the fact the school is buying a nice, simple car that is easy to drive and will not go wrong."

One of the latest attempts to increase sales to the schools came this year from Talbot which devised a plan called Surepass. This allows a learner driver who takes 25 lessons in a Talbot or Peugeot car under expert supervision to receive free tuition until he or she passes the test.

The scheme, established jointly with the Motor Schools Association, was said Talbot, designed to encourage learners to take the optimum number of lessons from only properly qualified and recorded instructors while simultaneously offering attractive car purchase facilities.

Under the scheme, learners who fail the test after 25 lessons will receive another 15 lessons, paid for by Talbot, and the pupil's next five tests. After qualifying for a full licence, the new driver who opts to buy one of the company's cars from a Talbot dealer taking part in the scheme gets a refund of the total cost of the professional lessons.

How Autolease set Alastair on the road to success

"I was a run of the mill salesman for the Widget Manufacturing Company until they changed to Autolease Contract Hire. My sales performances were suffering. I was spending more time off the road than on it! Then with Autolease Contract Hire I was provided with a credit card to take care of all my maintenance problems. Never again did I have to dip into my own pocket, if my car didn't start a phone call to Autolease got me moving. If my car was off the road Autolease would provide a

replacement vehicle and suddenly I could keep all my appointments in good time and look at me now I'm on my way to the Board!"

Your salesman could also be as successful as Alastair.

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Autolease
The big professionals in vehicle leasing

continued from previous page

The Chancellor's proposals, as the accompanying tables show, are not harsh. The ceiling beyond which a company car user pays income tax remains (thus far) at £8,500 and so brings in more taxpayers as incomes rise with inflation. But how many neither the Inland Revenue nor the car-makers are saying. And the present level still excludes from tax thousands of service engineers and salespersons enjoying the use of humble vehicles.

The new tax on free petrol would add to the weekly tax bill of the average company car user, driving say a

Free petrol for private mileage (1982-83)	Cash equivalent
1300cc or less	270
1301-1600cc	360
More than 1601cc	540
(Over 18,000 business miles, half the scale applies.)	

Cortina, the equivalent of the price of one gallon of petrol. As with the engines of the cars themselves, so with the taxation of the driver — it is all a matter of timing. Too heavy a hand in the company car user's pocket, as the magazine *Executive Car* gave warning would "carve a great hole" in the Rover-Jaguar market. These cars are popular in the export market, and there can't be exports without a reasonable base in the home market — and that means "fleet sales", the trade synonym for the company car.

A few ostentatious gestures towards buying British rather than foreign cars by fleet purchasers — such as we are now seeing — should help say the Chancellor's hand. Who wants to raise tax on Rover-Jaguar drivers merely to further hobble that great drain on the public purse, BL, makers of Jaguar?

The carmakers have less to fear from tax at the moment than from the reduction in the number of companies around to buy, and the number of employees to drive,

company cars. The remaining fleet buyers, for sometime have been able to extort bigger and bigger discounts for their purchases.

A future Chancellor may see some political advantage in cracking down on all those company chairman loafing about in "their" Rolls-Royces. There are some votes in that, but how many?

The chairman would hang on to their Rolls by one means or another, and who,

after a few days would remember that it was more at the chairman's expense and less at that of the shareholder and the taxpayer? Park Lane may be littered with Rolls-Royces, but then so too, at night, are the council estates of Camberwell thick with Ford Escorts vans. Their users would neither thank nor forget the Chancellor who, on election day, went into revenue in this peculiarly British perk.

Use of a business car (excluding petrol) (1982-83)

	Cars under 4 years old	Cars 4 years old or more
	£	£
Cars with original market value up to £11,500 (3,800) and having a cylinder capacity 1300cc or less	270 (230)*	180 (155)*
1301-1600cc	360 (300)*	240 (200)*
More than 1600cc	540 (350)*	360 (300)*

Notes: (1) 2,500 business miles and less and all second company cars 1½ times scale figures. (2) 2,501 business miles to 18,000 business miles: scale figures. (3) Over 18,000 business miles half scale figures. (Non-cylinder cars are taxed on equivalent scales.) *1981-1982.

How Mercedes-Benz meet the needs of Green, Green and Green Ltd.

As well as Father, Son and Daughter.

**Philosophically identical.
Functionally different.**

Place these three Mercedes-Benz cars next to each other and you'll see the beauty of horizontal integration and how it applies to your company.

The 200, 230E and 280E are all superlative five passenger, long distance saloons of high and highly-useable performance.

All built to the same exacting Mercedes-Benz standards.

Which make them astute investments for any company considering the purchase of cars for its principals.

Place the three cars on top of each other and you'll see the beauty of vertical integration and how it applies to the principals of the company.

Three precisely different tools. To meet three precisely different sets of requirements. To illustrate 'function before form'.



Which make them astute investments for any company considering the purchase of cars for three different people.

In other words, what's good for the company is even better for the individual.

The 2-litre Mercedes-Benz 200.

For the chairman of the company who wishes to emphasise frugality by setting an example, the new 200 is perfect.

It is the most economical way not only to enter the marque, but to drive the marque as well.

Yet the 2-litre owner has not won his 36.2 mpg* and 12,000 mile service intervals at the expense of performance.

He could cruise indefinitely and un-deafeningly at around 100 mph, were it legal. His car's acceleration has been deemed 'sparkling' by one of the least fulsome of

all motoring magazines.

And its stability and agility are exactly as those of every other Mercedes-Benz. Impeccable.

The 2.3 litre Mercedes-Benz 230E.

By preconception, the 230E owner should be a middle-of-the-road compromiser.

He compromises nothing whatsoever.

He gets 33.8 mpg* and the ability to travel at a constant 112 mph where legal. He also enjoys the eager response that comes from fuel injection and an overhead camshaft.

As with all Mercedes-Benz owners, the owner of the 230E does not change at the whim of fashion.

He appreciates the car's styling. Modern, yet classic. Dynamic, without being aggressive.

The 2.8 litre Mercedes-Benz 280E.

Elegant, discreet and very, very fast.

The fuel-injection 2.8 litre twin-cam six-cylinder engine builds up the power smoothly and

swiftly. In fact, she is able to outrun and out-accelerate many of today's sports cars.

But she has not thrown caution, or petrol, to the winds.

27.4 mpg* and the same 12,000 mile service intervals are hardly conspicuous consumption.

It's simply nice to know that if you're going places in business, you can get there quickly.

The Mercedes-Benz you don't see.

A world of subtle 'ergonomics'. Seats that breathe. A heating system that can keep driver and passengers at different



individual temperature levels. Intelligently laid-out controls to reduce driving stress.

More than 120 safety features that far out-distance any safety legislation in the world. And that renowned Mercedes-Benz quality of inner peace and quiet.

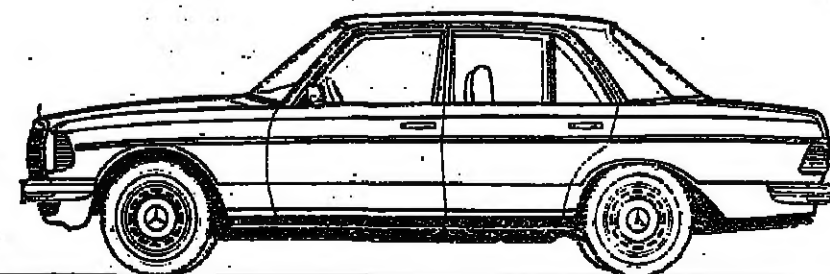
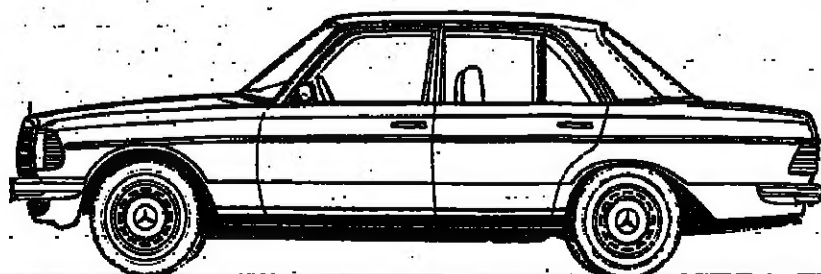
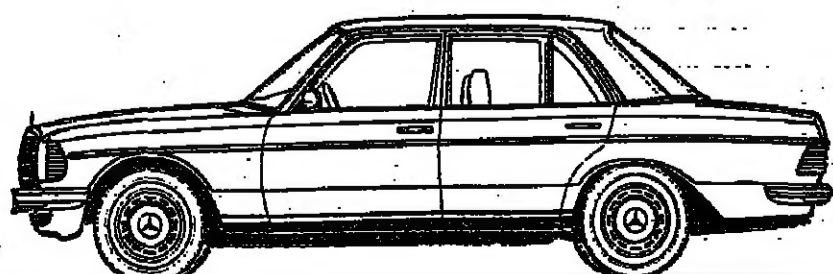
Legendary longevity.

The life of a Mercedes-Benz can run into decades. And there are at least two Mercedes-Benz Diesels that have been driven more than one million miles. The durability of those cars is present today in the current 240D and 300D Diesel saloons.

Durability counts when it's time to trade in your petrol or Diesel Mercedes. History indicates remarkably high re-sale values. Which should please your financial director very much.

Your Mercedes-Benz dealer can show him something else. Prices for new models that start at just £8,700.

Now when was the last time you saw a financial director smile? Engineered like no other car in the world.



* Official fuel consumption figures for the 200 urban cycle 22.6 mpg (12.5 litres/100km) manual and 23.6 mpg (12.0 litres/100km) automatic. At a constant 50 mph 36.2 mpg (7.8 litres/100km) manual and 33.8 mpg (8.4 litres/100km) automatic. At a constant 75 mph 26.6 mpg (9.9 litres/100km) manual and 26.4 mpg (9.7 litres/100km) automatic. For the 230E urban cycle 20.4 mpg (13.8 litres/100km) manual and 20.9 mpg (13.5 litres/100km) automatic. At a constant 50 mph 33.8 mpg (8.4 litres/100km) manual and 32.1 mpg (8.8 litres/100km) automatic. At a constant 75 mph 26.6 mpg (9.9 litres/100km) manual and 25.2 mpg (11.2 litres/100km) automatic. For the 280E urban cycle 16.5 mpg (17.1 litres/100km) manual and 16.5 mpg (17.1 litres/100km) automatic. At a constant 50 mph 27.4 mpg (10.3 litres/100km) manual and 27.4 mpg (10.3 litres/100km) automatic. At a constant 75 mph 21.7 mpg (13.0 litres/100km) manual and 21.7 mpg (13.0 litres/100km) automatic.

Your choice, from status symbol to rep's workhorse

EXECUTIVE CLASS

	Ford Granada 2.8i	Rover 3500 SE	Vauxhall Royale 2800	Talbot Tego 2.6 SX	Volvo 264 GLE	Audi 200 Inj.
price	£11,541	£11,903	£12,257	£10,815	£11,072	£10,334
engine size (cc)	2,792	3,528	2,784	2,664	2,649	2,144
consumption (mpg):						
urban	17.4	16.2	17.5	17.7	15.1	23.0
56 mph	32.8	36.3	33.2	33.2	34.5	37.2
75 mph	25.4	27.9	26.4	25.0	28.2	28.5
front wing	£67.70	£69.00	£43.25	£50.00	£87.91	£71.04
clutch	£80.21	£97.52	£80.65	£81.93	£130.51	£99.41
major service	3hrs	3hrs 30mins	2hrs 10mins	2hrs 40mins	3hrs 10mins	3hrs 25mins
insurance group	6	7	6	6	7	8

EXECUTIVE CLASS

Climbing into the prestige seat

The executive class is aptly named since the majority of cars in this sector are bought with company money and driven by directors, senior managers and professional people. The choice of car, within a specified price band, is usually left to the recipient, and probably because of this, foreign models figure much more prominently than lower down the market.

The sector is fiercely competitive, with many excellent cars chasing what over the past couple of years or so has been a steadily dwindling number of customers. Mr Sam Toy, chairman of Ford of Britain, has predicted that the large car could be dead by the mid 1980s, but the more optimistic view is that there will always be motorists wanting the comfort and refinement — not to mention prestige — that only a large car can provide.

In sales terms, the Ford Granada remains the clear leader though it has suffered heavily from the recent slump. The revised models, which were launched this autumn, could not have come at a better time. Ford has spent £50m on improvements to the range, of which the most important is a retuning of the suspension to give a smoother ride.

When the Granada first appeared in its present form in 1977 it took Ford much more convincingly into the quality market than hitherto and subsequent modifications have helped to consolidate its position. The standard of inner appointment and mechanical refinement is very high and the top Ghia model can almost claim to be Ford's first luxury car.

The Granada's main competitor is the Lancia, launched five years ago in a wave of euphoria and voted Car of the Year but which has fallen well below the ambitious sales targets set for it. There were quality and mechanical problems which devalued the car's hand values and, sadly, the car has been unable to justify the new factory at Solihull from which it was born.

It remains, though, a desirable vehicle, either as a powerful and not unbecomingly 3.5 litre V8 engine or the 2.6 and 2.3 litre "sixes". It is quiet, roomy and versatile, with the fifth door and folding rear seat. A revised version is expected in the new year when production transfers to Cowley, and there are plans to introduce a diesel to the range.

Another BL model, the Princess, comes in at the lower end of the executive market. Like the Rover, it suffered from teething problems and, once deemed a success, is being launched next year. As a spacious and comfortable vehicle it has much to commend it; a tallgated and restyled version, the Ambassador, is being launched next year.

Vauxhall, with its Carlton, Viceroy and Royale, now has far more executive appeal than in the days, not long since, when its sole offering was the uninspiring Victor. These more recent models, derived from Opel counterparts in Germany, have a sturdy competence and the Royale, at the top of the range, offers a combination of ride, handling and performance that few rivals can match.

Given the shrinking executive market, the arrival this year of the Talbot Tego seemed almost a case of the right car coming at the wrong time. A vast improvement on the dreary Chrysler Two Litre, which it replaces, its assets are smooth, quiet engines, a stylish three-box bodyside, finely tuned suspension and plenty of room inside.

Leading the challenge to the Granada and Rover are the big Volvos from Sweden. British motorists seem to have a peculiar affection for these rugged, tank-like vehicles which have looked more of less the same since the late 1960s. Their main appeal is their durability, though there has been a steady improvement in refinement and handling. A successor is imminent.

The Audi 100 and its offspring from the Volkswagen stable are excellent all-round cars, planned and built with a German thoroughness. From the four door saloon, the family has grown with the addition of the Avant hatchback and the 200 Turbo and there is an impressive diesel version. An interesting technical point is that the car uses a five cylinder engine, an unusual arrangement designed to give the performance of a six cylinder with the economy of a four.

Another German contender is the BMW 5 series range, which has just gone into a mark two version. The changes are discreet and the overall look of the car is much the same, but there is better performance and fuel economy and more space. The revised cars also incorporate some clever technology, including a service interval indicator (said to be a world "first") which collates the necessary information in order to inform the driver when an oil change is due. Germany's strength in the executive market is further emphasized by the compact Mercedes range. These cars are now, it is hard to realize, five years old, since the Mercedes styling has a classical timelessness about it. A combination of robust construction, high-quality engineering and immaculate finish ensures long waiting lists for new cars and good second-hand prices for old ones.

Saab, like Volvo, seems to strike a chord with British motorists and another handily old design still manages to find a ready sale. Stretching the '99 into the 900 was a shrewd move; the bigger car looks far more the part. It was also good thinking to introduce turbocharged versions adding glamour and performance without compromising fuel economy. In this area, Saab can claim to have pioneered a trend.

Apart from the Talbot, the Citroen CX is the most striking design, the Peugeot 604 the most orthodox and the Renault 20/30, with its tallgate, the most practical. All three are thoroughly characteristic of the companies that produced them. Peugeot is also represented by the 505, a comfortable and tasteful two litre.

The Lancia Gamma, an attractive Pininfarina styled fastback saloon and coupe, is unconventional in having a 2.5 litre engine with only four, horizontally opposed, cylinders. Italy's only six cylinder model is the Alfa 6, but to a long and distinguished tradition, though perhaps not possessing quite the personality of its predecessors.

MEDIUM CLASS

Few rivals to Ford's supremacy

The Ford Cortina's dominance of the company car market was underlined recently in a survey conducted by Company Secretary's Review and based on just over 1,000 replies. It found that the Cortina was not only the most popular model among company representatives, but was the main choice of middle and even senior management. Among representatives, 39 per cent drove Cortinas and 17.5 per cent Ford Escorts, with the Vauxhall Cavalier coming a poor third on 6.6 per cent. Of middle managers, 48.5 per cent were Cortina drivers; the next most popular model, the Cavalier, scored only 6.3 per cent. Senior managers preferred the Cortina (26.1 per cent) to the Granada (15.8 per cent).

These figures help to explain why the Cortina has been Britain's best-selling car for virtually a decade. It has become the one the others must beat and so far no rival car in the medium sector has come anywhere near challenging its supremacy. The success of the Cortina may be partly due to a strong dealer network but it also stems from a shrewd appreciation of the needs of the market. The fleet buyer, in particular, demands cars that are roomy enough to carry the salesman's samples and

LUXURY CLASS

	Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit	Mercedes-Benz 500 SEL	Daimler Double Six	BMW 725i
price	£52,113	£23,900	£19,950	£17,806
engine size (cc)	6,750	4,937	6,343	3,453
consumption (mpg):				
urban	12.0	14.0	16.0	15.8
56 mph	24.4	24.4	26.8	28.0
75 mph	18.1	20.2	21.5	23.7
front wing	£578.21	£72.98	£141.00	£76.00
clutch				
major service	12hrs 30mins	4hrs 12mins	5hrs	3hrs 20mins
insurance group	9	9	9	9

*automatic transmission

simple enough not to require expensive maintenance.

From its start in 1962 the Cortina has fulfilled these requirements. It was conceived after Ford had considered and rejected a riposte to the BMC Mini and decided it could make more money on a bigger vehicle that would not cost proportionately more to produce. While the Mini and its offspring won the technical accolades, the Cortina helped to make Ford the only consistently profitable British car company.

Frequent revisions have helped to keep the model range fresh: the mark two arrived in 1966, the mark three in 1970 and the current model in 1976. Next year there will be yet another, though the Cortina name is being dropped, probably in favour of Sierra — so that the model can have a common identity with the Continent, where it is known as the Taurus.

The Cortina is by no means a driver's car and, those wanting superb handling and fine quality must look elsewhere. But with three engine options and even more combinations of trim and equipment it offers something for everyone at competitive prices not to mention plenty of room for passengers and luggage.

Car for car the strongest competitor for the Cortina has been Vauxhall's Opel-derived Cavalier. Many judges would rate its handling and general quality above the Cortina's, and its reliability has been reflected in the prices it commands in the second-hand market.

The new version, launched last month, has little in common with the original Cavalier except the name. The most significant change is from rear-wheel to front-wheel drive, with the engine mounted transversely. This has enabled the car to be shorter overall, yet able to offer more interior and boot space.

The switch to front-wheel drive has also saved weight and gives, so Vauxhall maintains, better roadholding. Almost every other European manufacturer has adopted front-wheel drive for its medium cars, the glaring exception being the Cortina. Nor will the new one and it remains to be seen whether, just for once, Ford may have judged things wrongly.

The Cavalier has a new 1600cc overhead camshaft engine with enough power, in Vauxhall's view, for the range not to need the two-litre unit offered on the previous Cavalier. Lively performance is combined with good fuel economy. The other engine is the 1300cc unit from the Astra.

Vauxhall has settled the saloon versus hatchback argu-

ment by offering the Cavalier in both guises, giving a choice of two-door, four-door and five-door bodysides. With five trim and equipment levels, the range comprises 15 variants and almost rivals the Cortina for choice.

British Leyland rushed out the Morris Marina in 1971 in an attempt to take on the Cortina in the fleet market. It was an unpretentious car, notable more for its passenger space and large boot than its looks or its drivability. The Cortina somehow came over as the smarter vehicle.

Last year in a modest ERM facility the Marina was replaced by the Ital and given new front and back ends. The 1.3-litre A series engine, which goes back to the early 1950s, was completely overhauled to give more power, better fuel economy and smoother, quieter running. The same revised unit was later to power the Metro.

As on the Cortina, handling and ride remain the weaker points but, as a fleet car, the Ital has its appeal. Apart from generous space it is easy to service and light on fuel; the two-litre automatic version can claim to be the most economical in its class.

The first new car to emerge after Chrysler changed its name to Talbot was really an old car with a boot added, the Solara. It is a three-box version of the hatchback Alpine, though smart styling has largely disguised its origins and the crisp lines and six-light treatment of the side windows add up to arguably the best-looking of the medium models under discussion.

Mechanically, though, the Alpine recipe was followed: transverse engine, front-wheel drive and all-independent suspension. The engines, lively for the capacity, are 1.3 and 1.6 litres; and the Alpine was originally a French car, there are soft seats and ride to match.

The Solara was designed mainly with the fleet buyer in mind but it has taken time to establish itself. Perhaps like Talbot itself, the name has yet to catch on. For another French car, however, the fleet market in Britain has proved a lucrative area; and that is the Renault 18.

Given Renault's reputation for unusually sturdy cars with mechanical flair, the 18 was in some eyes disappointingly conventional, a three-box saloon much like several others. But if Renault had to some extent followed the Cortina path, that obviously was what the market wanted, and its success in Britain, particularly, could precisely lie in that it does not try to be clever.

MEDIUM CLASS

	Ford Cortina 1600 L	Vauxhall Cavalier 1600 L	Morris Ital 1.7 HL	Talbot Solara 1.6 LS	Renault 18 TS
price	£4,933	£4,905	£4,745	£4,929	£4,795
engine size (cc)	1,593	1,598	1,700	1,592	1,647
consumption (mpg):					
urban	27.4	29.4	30.0	29.7	28.5
56 mph	38.8	46.3	40.1	43.5	42.8
75 mph	29.7	35.3	28.1	31.7	32.5
front wing	£49.13	£30.95	£40.50	£43.00	£37.80
clutch	£39.92	£64.75	£45.69	£61.48	£56.46
major service	2hrs 40mins	1hr 35mins	3hrs	2hrs 50mins	3hrs 30mins
insurance group	3	3	3	4	4

economical version of the huge 6.7 litre V8 engine and the results could be ready in a couple of years. Looking further ahead the car will, as the Americans say be downsized and the Spirit's bodyside will be replaced a lot sooner than the Shadow's. The Silver Spirit may turn out to be an historic vehicle: the last of the traditional Rolls-Royces.

Rolls is unique among car makers in having no direct competitor. The nearest model to it is probably the Mercedes S Class. When the current version appeared, Daimler-Benz went out if its way to emphasize that far from being an anachronism, the luxury car would still be in demand until the turn of the century and beyond. Professor Werner Breitschwert, the head of development, even predicted an "increasing need" for such a vehicle.

At the same time, Daimler-Benz described the revised S Class range as an exercise in "making the big car respectable". The bodyside, while retaining the Mercedes family resemblance, had 14 per cent less drag and was considerably lighter and the former 6.9 and 4.5 V8 engines gave way to smaller, lighter 3.8 and 5 litre units. The result was 10 per cent better fuel consumption with no loss of performance, though the cars are still far from being economy models.

The other changes were mainly directed at making an already fine car even better, in areas like handling, ride and noise. But where, before, the S Class scores is in unobtrusive all-round quality: it is superbly built and finished and gives the impression that it will last for ever.

Quality and reliability are precisely what have let Jaguar down and when Mr John Egan took over as chairman in April 1980 he identified 210 faults which split out the difference between Jaguar and its two main rivals, Mercedes and BMW. His first task was to mount a determined attack on poor quality, directed particularly at component suppliers which were blamed for 50 per cent of the problems.

There has never been much doubt that as cars, and for the money, the 12-cylinder Jaguar and 156 mph XJS coupe is a combination of performance and refinement that is unequalled. The almost eerie silence of the power unit makes a Rolls seem almost noisy by comparison, while the 156 mph XJS coupe can claim to be the fastest production car in the world with automatic transmission.

The 12-cylinder has, however, also been one of the world's thirstiest engines and recent changes to the combustion chamber, which have improved consumption by 20 per cent, may win only a temporary reprieve. With its eye like Rolls-Royce, on the United States, Jaguar is being forced into more fundamental changes.

In the next two years a diesel version will appear and there will be a new six-cylinder petrol unit lighter and more economical than the present "six". It will be used first in the XJS in 1983 and then in the new XJ40 saloon which is scheduled for the first quarter of 1984. Board approval for the XJ40 came as a vote of confidence in Jaguar, whose future had seemed uncertain.

The other main contenders in the luxury sector are the big BMWs, the 7 Series saloons and the 6 Series coupes. Without matching the refinement of the Jaguar or the finish of the Mercedes, they combine stirring per-

formance with a high standard of comfort and excellent handling, and despite high prices, they have enjoyed considerable success in the British market.

simple, basic and conventional. To have discontinued the Chevette when the Astra appeared would have meant risking the loss of fleet business and Vauxhall's policy of running the two models side by side seems to have paid off. The Chevette is still the more popular, though Astra sales have been rising, and it will continue to be made as long as the market wants it.

The Astra, which originally appeared as the Opel Kadett 12 months before the new Escort, is a similar car to the Astra in its mechanical specification and offers the same taut handling. It, too, has eschewed the conventional saloon bodyside, though its two-box design is offered in both hatchback and non-hatchback versions.

The use of a transversely mounted engine, driving the front wheels has enabled the Astra to be roomier inside than the rear-wheel-drive Chevette despite being several inches shorter overall. Lively performance is combined with good fuel consumption, though the engine is noisy and the ride rather firm. Next month the car, which up to now has been imported from Germany, goes into production at Ellesmere Port.

Vauxhall's dilemma in the lower end of the fleet market is unattractive, perhaps, that in Talbot's case the issue has been decided by the closure of Linwood where the Avenger and Sunbeam models were made. These were the company's staple fleet cars, but based on proved components that promised to give little trouble.

With the demise of the Avenger and Sunbeam, Talbot must now try to woo the fleet buyer with its front-wheel-drive hatchback Horizon. To improve its chances of success Talbot is shortly to start making the car — so far produced only in France — in Coventry so that it can be genuinely sold as a British model.

The Horizon was the successor to, and based mechanically on, the Simca 1100 and has much the same characteristics: a boxy body on corners and a typically soft French ride. The three engines have all been inherited from other models but are none the worse for that: performance, especially from the two larger units, 1200cc and 1442cc, is excellent for the class, and in the 1.5 GL introduced in the summer Talbot can claim one of the most economical small-medium cars.

BL's representative in this sector, the Austin Allegro, has never been an outstanding fleet model and as it is ceasing production in March, the company must await the appearance of its successor, the LM10, early in 1983.

Meanwhile the Honda-designed Triumphant Acclaim, though not seen primarily as a company car, has already picked up some useful fleet business, with a £5 million deal for 1,200 vehicles being concluded on the launch day. With the promise of Japanese reliability and 40 mpg fuel consumption, the Acclaim could be an attractive proposition for company use.

Though Datsun has successfully penetrated the driving school market, foreign makes have not so far made a great impact in this sector. The position could change next year when the Renault 9 arrives in Britain, for it would seem to offer the fleet manager an ideal combination of an orthodox three-box bodyside, of which there are very few in the small/medium class, low servicing costs and the claim, which the independent test figures substantiate, of being the most economical car in its class in the world.

The Chevette is a further illustration of a company's nervousness about the demands of the fleet market. Vauxhall deciding to keep it in production even after the arrival of its successor, the Astra, The Chevette, which has its origins in the previous Opel Kadett launched eight years ago, is the epitome of the traditional fleet car —

formance with a high standard of comfort and excellent handling, and despite high prices, they have enjoyed considerable success in the British market.

simple, basic and conventional. To have discontinued the Chevette when the Astra appeared would have meant risking the loss of fleet business and Vauxhall's policy of running the two models side by side seems to have paid off. The Chevette is still the more popular, though Astra sales have been rising, and it will continue to be made as long as the market wants it.

The Astra, which originally appeared as the Opel Kadett 12 months before the new Escort, is a similar car to the Astra in its mechanical specification and offers the same taut handling. It, too, has eschewed the conventional saloon bodyside, though its two-box design is offered in both hatchback and non-hatchback versions.

The use of a transversely mounted engine, driving the front wheels has enabled the Astra to be roomier inside than the rear-wheel-drive Chevette despite being several inches shorter overall. Lively performance is combined with good fuel consumption, though the engine is noisy and the ride rather firm. Next month the car, which up to now has been imported from Germany, goes into production at Ellesmere Port.

Vauxhall's dilemma in the lower end of the fleet market is unattractive, perhaps, that in Talbot's case the issue has been decided by the closure of Linwood where the Avenger and Sunbeam models were made. These were the company's staple fleet cars, but based on proved components that promised to give little trouble.

With the demise of the Avenger and Sunbeam, Talbot must now try to woo the fleet buyer with its front-wheel-drive hatchback Horizon. To improve its chances of success Talbot is shortly to start making the car — so far produced only in France — in Coventry so that it can be genuinely sold as a British model.

The Horizon was the successor to, and based mechanically on, the Simca 1100 and has much the same characteristics: a boxy body on corners and a typically soft French ride. The three engines have all been inherited from other models but are none the worse for that: performance, especially from the two larger units, 1200cc and 1442cc, is excellent for the class, and in the 1.5 GL introduced in the summer Talbot can claim one of the most economical small-medium cars.

BL's representative in this sector, the Austin Allegro, has never been an outstanding fleet model and as it is ceasing production in March, the company must await the appearance of its successor, the LM10, early in 1983.

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SMALL CLASS

	Austin Metro L	Ford Fiesta L	Ford Escort 1.3 L	Vauxhall Chevette L	Vauxhall Astra 1300	Talbot Horizon 1.3 LS	Triumph Acclaim HL
price	£3,499	£3,939	£4,667	£4,109	£4,764	£4,519	£4,688
engine size (cc)	998	957	1,295	1,256	1,297	1,294	1,335
consumption (mpg):							
urban	38.4	35.8	30.4	29.7	28.8	31.7	32.8
56 mph	53.1	47.1	47.1	44.0	47.1	44.1	48.8
75 mph	38.5	33.8	36.7	31.3	34.0	31.4	34.0
front wing	£21.00	£29.90	£37.10	£42.10	£37.10	£40.00	£40.00
clutch	£23.56	£33.04	£40.53	£49.36	£51.15	£48.58	£40.00
major service	2hrs 45mins	2hrs 20mins	1hr 40mins	4hrs 30mins	2hrs 50mins	2hrs 40mins	2hrs 35mins
insurance group	1	1	3	2	3	3	4

Peter Waymark

CHARTS:

Additional information

- The fuel consumption figures are from the official Government tests.
- The prices for front wing and clutch do not include VAT.
- Insurance ratings are a general guide and may vary from company to company.

To lease or buy?

Drop in deals on wheels

Leasing equipment rather than buying outright as a way of releasing capital for other purposes has continued to grow — except for cars. Or so it appears from last year's tally by the Equipment Leasing Association, which showed a 30 per cent increase in leasing overall but a 43 per cent drop in car leasing.

A company fighting its corner in its markets, with little time to consider how it provides a fleet of cars for its various employees, might be forgiven for thinking that where others are pulling out may not be the place to stay.

It is not quite so simple as that. The big drop in the ELA's figures is for a start not as dramatic as it may seem.

There has been a cutback in demand for cars, generally because of the recession, affecting all forms of car leasing. Another reason is that the ELA's membership is heavily weighted to the leasing subsidiaries of financial institutions, including banks, for which holding assets like cars has had taxation advantages arising from the capital allowances available on the assets.

Car leasing, in this sector, often based on what is known as a financing lease, hit an unusual boom in 1979 because of the tax advantages. The capital allowances amounted to 100 per cent in the first year. Those offering the leases — the lessors — were in consequence able to do so on good terms, although the hallmark of the various types of financing lease was that the lessee took responsibility for depreciation, maintenance costs and risks.

ELA members overall were less involved in the contract hire form of leasing, although

contract hire accounts for a large proportion of car leasing as a whole. In contract hire the lessor takes over the depreciation risks on a vehicle; some arrangements offer a maintenance deal as well.

What affected all leasing was the 1980 Budget, when capital allowances on most car deals were reduced to 25 per cent in the first year, with the same applying in subsequent years on a reducing balance basis.

The decline in car leasing is attributed by the ELA not only to the effects of recession and the Budget changes, but also to the growth of non-ELA specialist lessors.

There were other Budget changes. Lease rentals on cars costing up to £8,000 are wholly allowable against a company's profits. On more expensive cars a proportion of the rental is disallowed, although this is not large until the luxury saloon level is reached, where disallowance is around 25 per cent. The maintenance element in any rental can be separated and not included in the disallowance.

A 25 per cent capital allowance with the £8,000 rule applies whether a car is purchased outright or brought on hire purchase as well as leased. In outright purchase or hire purchase buying there is, when the car is finally sold, either a balancing charge or allowance made according to the sale value.

With hire purchase, interest paid can be laid against company profits. At the end of a hire purchase deal the car, of course, belongs to the company operating it. With leasing there can be an equivalent of end-of-sale balancing charges. Sales proceeds received as a refund of rentals are taxable as income.

One factor which has to be weighed with financing leases, is in estimating what the residual sale value will be. If that value is estimated at say 50 per cent, but turns out to be 40 per cent, it is the lessee who will pay. A careful assessment of likely market conditions in the future obviously needs to be made.

There is also an increasing range of leases tailored to the varying needs of companies. Some finance leases are on a fixed term, but others can be made more flexible, the latter carrying a pre-determined settlement figure if the option of early termination is taken.

There is also a "balloon" lease in which the rental payment is concentrated at termination of a contract after a predetermined period, thus reducing payments earlier in the leasing period.

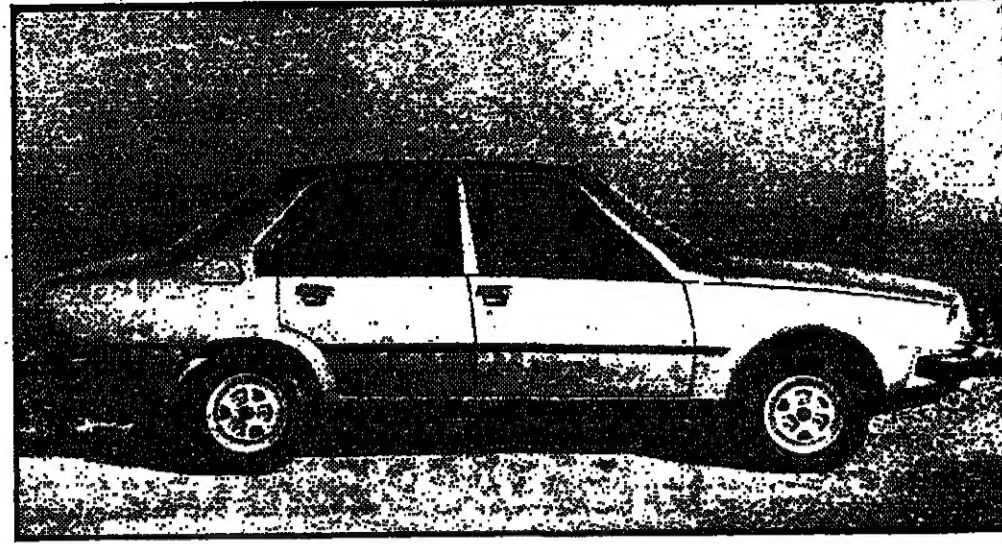
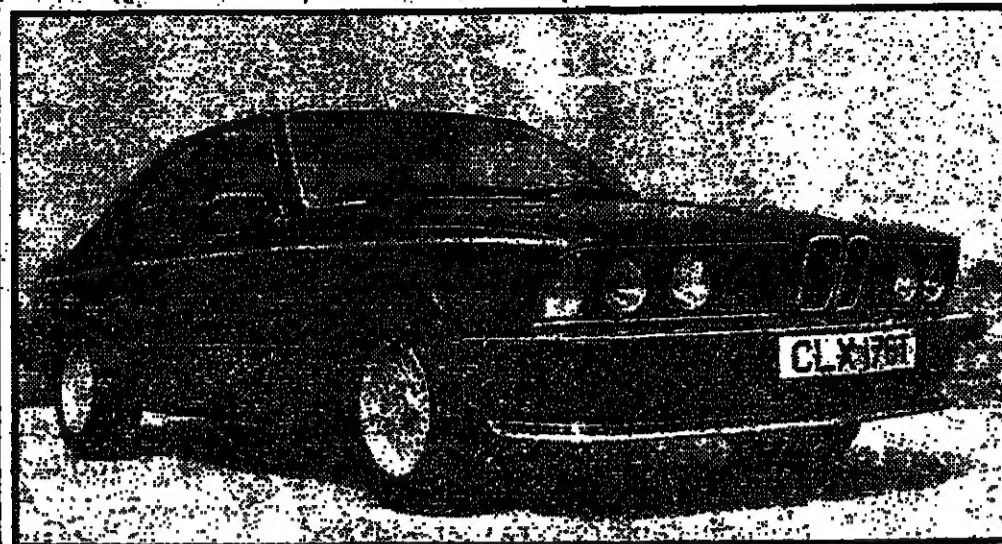
Some leasing companies argue that there is an advantage in leasing in the way in which leased vehicles are dealt with in company accounts. A leased vehicle need not appear on a company balance sheet as an asset, and outstanding rentals need not be entered as company liabilities (unlike outstanding hire purchase payments).

This is why leasing is often described as "off-balance-sheet financing." One advantage for a company is that it can improve some of the common financial ratios applied to a company's performance. What needs to be borne in mind is that the accounting profession is now anxious to change this situation so that leased assets are shown and a contingent liability for future payments made clear.

In making choices between buying company cars outright, finance leasing or contract hiring there is no substitute for going through the basic costs arithmetic offered by all of these methods. What would a DIY operation — buying cars at a discount, servicing them, selling them on, and all the management time and transport department operation that this implies — really involve in cost terms?

How much is capital needed for other parts of a company operation? Do you have the car market skills to avoid the possible residual values problem in an otherwise attractive financing lease? Or is the car fleet operation best hived off to the contract hire experts so you know where you are simply by paying a regular bill?

Derek Harris
Commercial Editor



Triumph Acclaim, Talbot Horizon, BMW 3.5 litre coupé and Renault 18GTS. Lease rentals on cars up to £8,000 are wholly allowable against a company's profits. On more expensive cars a proportion of the rental is disallowed.



For:

Economical — all things being equal — if there is plenty of cash to spare that is not needed for anything else or if there is bank-borrowing capacity not needed for other purposes. Completely flexible: if things turn difficult next year, just keep the car longer. Buy whatever make you like. Keep maintenance in-house if desired.

Against:

Discounts on purchase could be meagre to moderate for most normal-sized companies. Capital is tied up in the vehicles. In-house maintenance may not be a particularly economical operation if comparatively small. Management time can be absorbed not only in buying and the maintaining of a fleet but also in dealing with eventual sales if optimum returns are to be achieved.

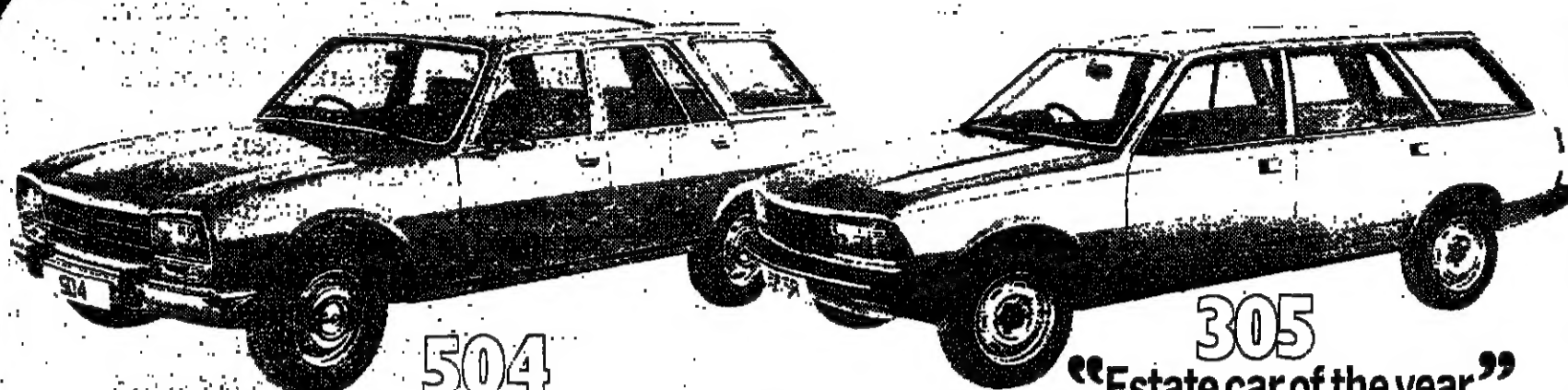


For:

Releases capital for other purposes. Rentals are chargeable in full against company profits of the year in which rentals are paid. Sales proceeds received as a refund of rentals. For the moment leasing can be "off balance sheet" with vehicles showing up neither as assets nor liabilities. With contract hire the lessor bears depreciation and maintenance costs and risks.

Against:

Caution needed in establishing scale of residual value of vehicles when adopting a financing lease in which lessee can also be responsible for maintenance. If car costs more than £8,000 the tax allowance on rentals becomes progressively restricted. Careful estimation necessary as between the cost of the various forms of leasing, including contract hire, and the varying advantages offered.



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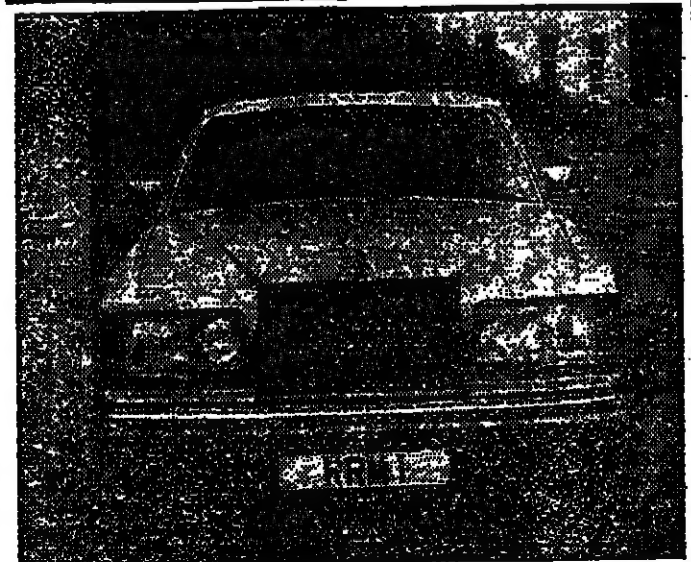
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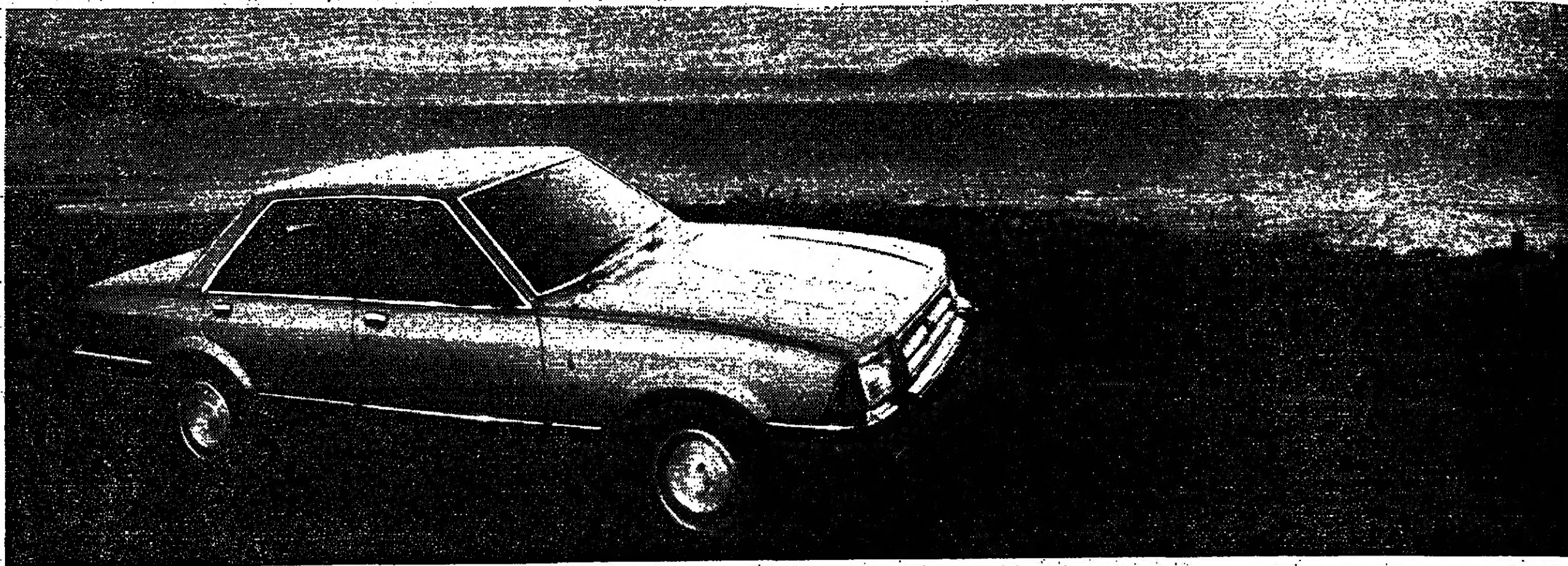


For the address of your nearest dealer check Yellow Pages.

Diplomatic Nato and personal export inquiries to Peugeot Park Lane, 63/67 Park Lane, London W1Y 3TE. Tel: 01-499 5533.



Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit: about 25 per cent rental is disallowed on luxury cars.



Friday night and 200 miles to drive. What better introduction to the 1982 Ford Granada.

I'd never driven a 1982 model Granada before, and Bob had never driven a car like mine, so, just for a change, we decided to swap for the weekend.

His Ghia was waiting in my parking space when I left the office. Late as usual, Joanna wouldn't be amused.



At first glance, the new car looked almost identical to the previous model, but closer inspection revealed some subtle changes. As time went on I found they rather grew on me.

The grille had fewer, but broader, slats, which apparently improve its aerodynamic penetration. And the bumpers wrap further round the wings than before. Functional changes rather than decorative, but that's typical of Ford these days.

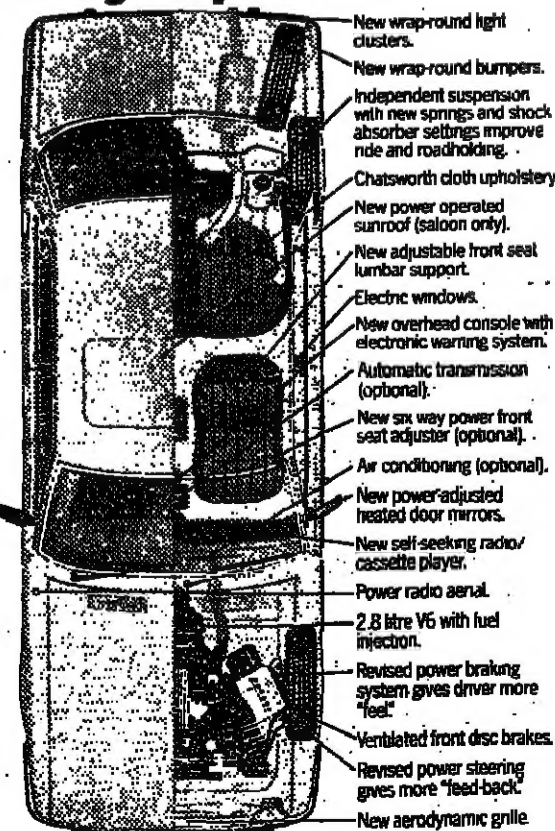
It's my impression that they only alter their cars when they know they can make a genuine improvement. And then only when the technology involved has been thoroughly tested.

But back to the Granada.

The driver's door clunked shut with a nicely engineered feel, closing out the trials of the week.

I noticed that the courtesy lights stayed on for a few seconds to give me time to make myself at home.

Ford gives you more.



There was much that was new to me.

Bob opted for the electrically adjustable driver's seat – up and down, backwards and forwards, you can even tilt it. There's an adjustable lumbar support in the back rest too. And the upholstery is made of a restful material called Chatsworth cloth. All in pleasantly muted colours.

The door mirrors are electrically controlled as well, and heated so that they don't mist up.

I counted no less than six dials and sixteen switches in front of me, but the beauty of it is that everything is arranged so logically that it only takes a second to find your way around.

Another feature I hadn't encountered before was the electronic warning system which keeps a check on all the car's fluid levels and even on its brake pad wear. (As I invariably find that my windscreen washer bottle runs out just as the sun is setting in my eyes, that was a little bit of technology that I'd be grateful for.)

In a Ghia, the system is housed in an overhead console along with the electric sunroof control and two swivelling map reading lights like the ones you get in an aeroplane.



Time to get moving. The engine, a splendid V6 with fuel injection, started with a distant hum and ticked over so smoothly that I found myself looking at the rev counter just to confirm that it was still running.

I eased out into the traffic feeling very conscious that I was driving someone else's car, something that always makes me a little anxious.

I needn't have been. Big though the Granada is, it seems to shrink in traffic. From your commanding position behind the wheel, you can see all four corners of the car, which always inspires confidence. And the power steering is so quick and light that you can slip through the narrowest gaps without flinching. Incidentally, the faster you go the less power assistance there is, so the steering doesn't lose its 'feel' at speed.

I stopped at the flower stall as usual ('Not another new car, Guv?'), bought my

peace offering, then headed for the motorway.

As you'd expect, that's where the Granada comes into its own. I'm not a speed merchant myself, but I do enjoy a powerful car, and this one was obviously capable of cruising way above the legal limit.

I soon settled down to my usual pace, roof open, evening sun on my face and an old Cannonball Adderley tape on the stereo wishing I was twenty again.

However, as I joined the 303, my enjoyment was interrupted by a bank of black clouds. Why does it always have to rain when I'm going to the country for the weekend?

The Granada didn't seem to mind though.

According to Bob, Ford have adjusted the spring and shock absorber rates in the all independent suspension, which has not only made the ride even smoother, but has also battered down the roadholding. The low profile tyres have terrific grip too.

It reminded me of an article I read in an issue of Car, which said that the Granada now 'out-handles some of the best cars in Europe'. Since they were comparing

it with BMWs and Mercs I had been a little sceptical, but now I wasn't so sure.

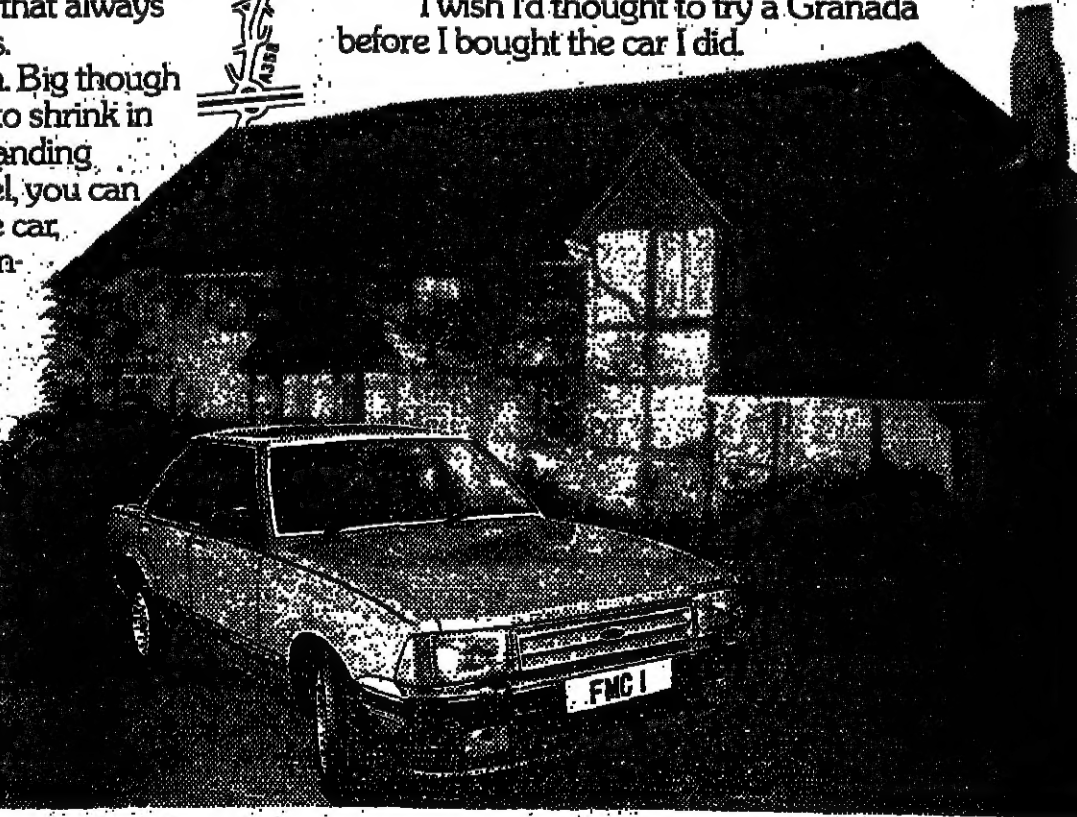
The corners didn't feel as sharp as usual to me, even in this weather, with the road made greasy by falling leaves.

As I neared home, cocooned in the warm cockpit, the instruments glowing softly, and the

powerful headlights throwing a tunnel of white light through the rainy darkness, I couldn't help wondering whether Bob was enjoying my car as much as I was enjoying his.

As it turned out, he hadn't been. And I've been feeling slightly annoyed with myself ever since.

I wish I'd thought to try a Granada before I bought the car I did.



FORD GRANADA

